

3-7-1997

The Hilltop 3-7-1997

Hilltop Staff

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THE HILLTOP



Volume 80, No. 14

Serving the Howard University community since 1924

March 7, 1997

This Week's Highlights:

CAMPUS
Homecoming Policy Board names Haki Halisi 1997 chairman.
A2.

CAMPUS PLUS
The Hilltop is named the best nondaily student newspaper in its region.
A3.

LOCAL
Local residents prepare for new sports complex.
A6.

NATIONAL
Ben Chavis says politics did not inspire his move to the Nation of Islam.
A7.

INTERNATIONAL
International Week begins March 8.
A8.

TEMPO
The Hilltop explores the trend in alumni contributions to the University.
B1.

PULSE
Theater arts department is now playing 'Jelly's Last Jam.'
B2.

WEEKENDER
This week's spotlight: The 9:30 Club.
B3.

SPORTS



Ted Koppel, sports figures debate the black athlete's position in the sports industry.
B6.



Students upset about the plan to merge the College of Fine Arts with the College of Arts and Sciences interrupted the Charter Day ceremony Tuesday and demanded that President H. Patrick Swygert listen to their concerns. The president and the students met to talk later that day. STORY: A2.

Student protest brings Charter Day ceremony to halt

By Chana Garcia
Hilltop Staff Writer

As President H. Patrick Swygert finished his opening address and began introducing the Howard University Choir at the 130th Charter Day ceremony in Cramton Auditorium, approximately 60 students walked on the stage, singing "We Shall Not Be Moved" to protest the approved merger between the College of Fine Arts and the College of Arts and Sciences.

Led by Charisse Lambert and Suzette Gunn, the Rebirth Of Active Resistance, or ROAR, Movement interrupted Tuesday's Charter Day ceremony honoring William H. Gray, president and CEO of The College Fund/UNCF, to voice its concerns. The protest was also intended to inform Swygert and the Board of Trustees of ROAR's demands, which include a written response from Swygert about the merger due no later than Wednesday, March 11, and an emergency meeting with student representatives and the Board to address the merger issue.

"We find this action disheartening that the capstone of Black higher education is implementing a regressive plan of action," said Lambert, a junior majoring in film. "In order to

preserve the excellence of the departments within Fine Arts, our autonomy is imperative."

Security guards quickly rushed the stage to stop the demonstration, but Swygert motioned for them not to intervene to prevent the scene from turning chaotic.

Jason Raines, one of the protesters, found himself in the midst of the confusion when two security guards pulled his shirt off.

"I was trying to make sure the statement got out and everything was cool," said the freshman acting major. "One of them grabbed me, and another one grabbed me and pulled my hat off and took off my shirt."

When Swygert and other faculty members intervened, the protesters began chanting, "We want time." "No longer will we sit back and accept this unjust treatment," Lambert shouted in front of a cheering audience. "If our demands are not met, the movement will be forced to continue."

The demonstration subsided when Swygert promised to meet with the students later that afternoon, but added that protesting was not the best way to be heard. "Don't stress yourself and put yourself in a position where you're going to lose," Swygert said. "I'm telling you -- don't play."

As Charter Day resumed, Swygert tried to lighten the mood



Students who oppose the mergers of schools and colleges outlined in the Strategic Framework for Action protest the plan inside Cramton Auditorium at Tuesday's Charter Day activities.

with a little humor.

"I spoke in [the] opening remarks about 130 years of history and legacy," he said. "One of our legacies at Howard University is that we are not only outspoken, we engage issues, and after our engagement, we understand that we are still family."

But Gunn said this was the third attempt students have made to talk to Swygert, and she believes he is

not taking the issue seriously.

"He's not fighting for us," said Gunn, a junior majoring in acting. "He really is a politician. I'm not here for him to like me; I'm here for him to do a job, and to me, he hasn't done it. I pay too much damn money for him not to, and if he's not going to do it, then he's stupid to think I'm not going to complain."

Gray, the keynote speaker, told

See CHARTER DAY, A3.

Temple University rejects Mumia Abu-Jamal's commentaries

By April Turner
Hilltop Staff Writer

Controversy surfaced recently when a decision was made to air commentaries from Mumia Abu-Jamal, a death row inmate convicted of killing a cop, over national radio.

Pacifica Radio's "Democracy Now!" newsmagazine show decided to air 13 of Abu-Jamal's commentaries, hoping to gain support from other media outlets in the name of free speech. Instead the decision cost the newsmagazine one-third of its news and public affairs affiliates.

Temple University's WRTI had contracts with Pacifica and was one of the 12 out of 36 stations that carried Pacifica's programming, but decided to cancel the programming a week ago, arguing that it is inappropriate to give voice to a convicted murderer. WRTI provides programming to New Jersey and Delaware, as well as Pennsylvania, where Abu-Jamal is on death row.

Amy Goodman, host of the show that aired the commentaries, said the producers found out Temple's decision while they were on the air.

"It's important to hear voices from those on death row,"



Mumia Abu-Jamal

Goodman said. "Dozens are freed from death row because it turns out they were wrongly convicted."

"The university caved to pressure from opponents of Mumia Abu-Jamal and these included very powerful forces in Pennsylvania, such as the Fraternal Order of Police," said Dan Coughlin, producer of "Democracy Now!"

"This amounts to censorship." Abu-Jamal, a former radio journalist, was sentenced to death for the 1981 murder of a Philadelphia police officer, after the officer stopped Abu-Jamal's brother for driving the wrong way

Homecoming announces \$75,000 profit

By Valynia Saunders
Hilltop Staff Writer

The Homecoming Steering Committee had a profitable season despite conflicts among staff members.

The committee set aside about \$200,000 for expenses and used about \$125,000.

"There were just some miscommunications between the staff," said Daanen Strachen, associate director of student activities and the committee's adviser.

According to Strachen, there were some instances in which committee members and event promoters clashed in business deals. Some thought promoters would take legal action against the committee, but Strachen said that was not the case.

"There was no 'almost being sued,'" Strachen said. "There was some miscommunication between the promoters and the Homecoming Committee."

Strachen said next year's committee will be required to meet with promoters during business hours with an adviser present.

"I don't want members [of the committee] to have to meet a promoter at a club at 2:00 in the morning or anything like that," Strachen said.

Nicola Claggett, the committee chairwoman, reportedly had difficulty maintaining her authoritative position during Homecoming.

Strachen, however, said no undermining of the chairwoman's authority ever existed. "[Claggett] began as chair in February, and she ended as chair," Strachen said.

Claggett, who is still on the committee's board, was not available to comment at The Hilltop press time.

Homecoming raised approximately \$35,000; \$15,000 went to budgets for Mr. and Miss Howard and the remaining profits went to bills, stipends and the treasury for next year's committee.

The step show brought in the most revenue, according to the committee financial report.

Strachen attributed this to football game sales. "Take six to seven thousand people attending the step show, multiplied by ten or fifteen dollars," Strachen said. "The step show is always more successful than any other event we have."

Because the pageant was free this year, and its expenses were combined with the fashion show after party, the party was the least profitable event.

But Strachen said that the combined budget with a free pageant, made the after party no less profitable than anything else.

No event really fell short of expected revenue by any extreme margins, Strachen said.

Melinda Spaulding, Homecoming treasurer, said she was satisfied with the financial results.

See HOMECOMING, A3.

Students storm Black-Jewish class in protest

By Janine A. Harper
Hilltop Staff Writer

Eight students burst through the door of a Black-Jewish Relations class in Founders Library on Wednesday afternoon, disrupting the usually calm routine of the joint Howard University-American University class to protest the Anti-Defamation League's involvement with the class.

"Why is the ADL, a terrorist organization, permitted to teach a class on Howard's campus?" asked Jerrah Crowder, a sophomore biology major and member of a student group that calls itself "Concerned Students at Howard."

"You're not getting any answers out of me," said Russell Adams, chairman of Howard's African American Studies department. Adams refused to continue the class until the protesting students left. Campus police arrived then and students not enrolled in the class had their Howard identification cards confiscated and were asked to leave.

The students finally exited and

waited outside the classroom for their IDs to be returned.

At about 3:15 p.m., five of the students were approached by Campus Police Chief Lawrence Dawson and his assistant, Harvey Armstrong. The students were escorted to the Mordecai Johnson Administration Building to meet with Vice President for Student Affairs Steve Favors.

As students left the hour-long meeting, several expressed disappointment that Favors focused on the disciplinary implications of their actions rather than the issues that brought them there.

Favors could not be reached for comment at The Hilltop press time.

In 1994, following charges of anti-semitism on Howard's campus, the ADL suggested to Adams, that he and Pamela Nadell, chairwoman of Judaic Studies at American University, institute a Black-Jewish Relations class. The weekly class is now taught jointly by the two professors alternately on the campuses of Howard and American universities.

The Black-Jewish Relations

See PROTEST, A3.

See MUMIA, A3.

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Individual courses are also offered during the evening and individual elective courses are offered during the day.

The application deadline for the Summer 1997 program is May 1, 1997. Space is limited: Early application is encouraged.

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Blackburn Center**

CAMPUS PLUS

Board taps Moore, Springs for top Hilltop posts

By LaWanda Amaker
Hilltop Staff Writer

Natalie Moore and Millicent Springs have been chosen to head the nation's largest Black collegiate newspaper, *The Hilltop*, as editor in chief and business manager, respectively, for the 1997-1998 school year.

"Being *The Hilltop's* editor in chief has been a goal of mine since coming to Howard," said Moore, a junior print journalism major.

Moore has worked for *The Hilltop* for three years, working first as a free-lance writer, then becoming editor of the Campus Plus page the following year, and now serving as managing editor.

She is also a member of the Society of Professional Journalists, the Frederick Douglass Honor Society, the National Association of Black Journalists and the Golden Key Honor Society.

Moore's proposal explained how she wanted to enhance the features of next year's paper.

"You may see many face-lifts, and the graphic design may be different," Moore said. She also stressed her belief in pro-active journalism, which includes having readers respond to *The Hilltop* news through action.

Moore said she realizes that her job will require long, tedious hours, but says she is ready for the challenge.

Springs, who was selected as business manager, has worked with *The Hilltop* for two years, first in production and this year as the advertising manager.

"I've always been interested in running *The Hilltop*," said the junior, systems and computer science major. "I am familiar with business operations, and I hope I can do a good job."

Springs said she plans for *The Hilltop* to be on the Internet next year, and expects the paper to be run just as efficiently as this year.

To be selected as editor in chief and business manager, Moore and Springs had to submit an application, give a short presentation in front of the Hilltop Policy Board and answer any additional questions the board may ask.

"I am very happy that Natalie and Millicent were selected for their positions," said Belinda Lightfoot-Watkins, director of student activities. "I think they are the best possible people for the job."

Current Editor in Chief Donya Matheny says she also has faith that these two young woman will excel at their positions.

"Natalie and Millicent will take *The Hilltop* to new heights," she said.



Pedro de Weever
The Hilltop Policy Board voted Natalie Moore, a junior journalism major, as the 1997-98 Editor in Chief.

The Hilltop, former employee win prizes

By Janelle Lynette Thompson
Hilltop Staff Writer

Once again Howard University is recognized for its excellence, and this time it is *The Hilltop*, the student newspaper, and one of the paper's former editors in chief, Monica Lewis.

The Hilltop won first place in the Society of Professional Journalists' Mark of Excellence Region 2 award for the best all-around nondaily student newspaper.

Editor in chief, Donya Matheny said, "It feels great that a professional society has recognized our efforts. It gives all of our staff a lot of encouragement."

Earlier this year, SPI submitted information to the newspaper about the competition and asked for three issues of the paper. The three issues had to be from the first week in March, October and December of

1996.

Matheny said she had intention of entering the competition and had high hopes of winning.

"One goal of mine was to try and produce an award-winning paper, and so when I had the chance I jumped at it," Matheny said.

The newspaper received their award at the regional conference in North Carolina last weekend.

Last year's editor in chief, Monica Lewis, is also an award winner. She was the third place winner of the Robert P. Kelly award, sponsored by the New Jersey Press Association.

This award recognizes reporters with less than one year's experience at a daily newspaper.

Lewis said, "This award really is attributed to what I learned at Howard in the classroom, and at *The Hilltop*. I feel like I have represented Howard well, which is

what I wanted to do."

Since graduating from Howard last May, Lewis is working at the Courier-Post in New Jersey as a municipal reporter.

Lewis said winning this award was a great achievement because no one at her paper has won in the last 12 years.

"My managing editor asked me to enter the competition by submitting five of my best clips," Lewis said.

Lewis received a note of appreciation from the owner of her paper, Gannett Co., and is invited to a statewide banquet in New Jersey.

"I became a writer to make a difference in people's lives," she said.

"We [staff] have worked hardest on getting Howard students to think about critical issues," Matheny said.

The following is the statement Fine Arts students read at the Charter Day protest:

This is an open address to the Howard University family:

This is not an attack. We are forcefully appealing our position concerning the recently approved merger between the College of Fine Arts and College of Arts and Sciences. We find this position unacceptable and detrimental to the future of the arts at Howard University.

We find this action disheartening that the Capstone of Black Higher Education is implementing a regressive plan of action. In order to preserve the excellence of the departments within Fine Arts our autonomy is imperative.

Our demands are as follows:

- We demand an emergency meeting between our representatives and the Board of Trustees to revisit the vote and explore alternative measures.
- We demand a written response addressed to the Howard University student body no later than Wednesday, Mar. 11, 1997. The location of the delivery will be announced.

We are tired of the blatant disrespect and complete disregard that is constantly displayed to us by our administration. We are rallying students, faculty, and alumni for their support of our cause. No longer will we sit back and accept this unjust treatment. If our demands are not met, the movement will be forced to continue.

The Hilltop Press Release: March 7th edition ad size: 1/4 page

From CHARTER DAY, A1.

complain."

Gray, the keynote speaker, told the audience the demonstration made him feel "right at home" as if he were back in Bright Hope Baptist Church in Philadelphia, where he served as pastor for more than 20 years. Questioning the authority, he said, is healthy, and he praised students for keeping the activism of the 1960s alive.

But when Gray finished his speech about racism as a challenge for minorities in the work force, some of the trustees later expressed their concerns about the protest and students' reactions to the merger, which falls under Swygert's Strategic Framework for Action, a plan that outlines structural changes at the University for the next five years.

"I hope the president will listen more to the students," said Carolyn Whitfield Broome, a trustee. "Nothing was really done after the Town Hall meeting, and the board decided. I don't know if the board was, in general, aware. Nothing more can be done at this point. I think it's important [that the board] have more contact with students and faculty and not just hear from the administration."

But the Rev. Thaddeus Garrett, Jr., chairman of the Board of Trustees, said that students' protest did not hurt attitudes toward the Strategic Framework, but that the students' views would be taken into account at the appropriate venue.

"We are in approval of a variety of viewpoints students have per-

taining to our restructuring efforts," Garrett said. "Just because we are considering views doesn't necessarily mean we agree. This is a difficult task and the president has done it well and in great openness."

Gathered in front of Cramton following the ceremony, the protesters were preparing for their meeting with Swygert, hoping that their demonstration had an effect on the administration.

"This is a political movement," said Stephanie Boggs, a senior majoring in acting.

The Board of Trustees was there, so we kind of feel it looked good in their light. This is going to be all over the media."

'97 Homecoming Treasurer search has been reopened for applications

Hurry, new deadline is March 10 Interviews are scheduled for March 12

Qualifications in brief:

- Must be currently enrolled, full time Spring 1997

- Must have a cumulative grade point average of at least a 2.50

More details can be found on the application

Applications are available in the Office of Student Activities, Suite 117, Blackburn Center, or for more information, call Ms. Watkins, Executive Secretary to the Homecoming Policy Board, at 806-7000.

From PROTEST, A1.

The Black-Jewish Relations class comprises seven Howard students and nine American University students.

Concerns about the ADL's presence on campus were outlined in handouts titled "Anti-Black Organization Teaches Class at Howard," which were initially distributed at Charter Day. It details the ADL's role in what the Concerned Students coin the "suppression of Black leadership," citing the ADL's surveillance of leaders like the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan.

"This is not a case of Howard University versus the Jews, as the media would like to blow up," Crowder said. "This is Howard University versus a political, terrorist organization."

Adams refused to validate the students' charges against the ADL.

Wednesday's class assignment was to pair off Howard and American University students to focus on stereotypes that each group holds of the other, Adams said.

"The class is about African-American-Jewish relations," said Michael Twitty, a sophomore enrolled in the class. "Not the ADL."

"The point of the discussion is to get Jewish and African-American students to sit down at a round table and discuss ideas," Adams said. "This is one of the few places this happens in America."

"I am not bent out of shape over this," Adams said. "There is a procedure: You don't invade an operation in progress in the format they approached."

Adams linked Wednesday's activities with the protest by Fine Arts students on Charter Day. Adams termed the two protests as evidence of "a growing climate of activism on campus."

From MUMIA, A1.

guilty — that has already been determined. It is about his opinions and views. What can that hurt?"

In 1995, Abu-Jamal published a book, "Live from Death Row," which attracted an enormous amount of publicity. In 1994 he

recorded a series of commentaries for National Public Radio. After the slain police officer's widow wrote a letter of protest to hundreds of NPR contributors, NPR threw away plans to air the commentaries, saying there should be

different standards for murder.

Abu-Jamal's commentaries focused on conditions inside the prison, the criminal justice system and the death penalty, but he does not discuss his own case.

From HOMECOMING, A1.

"Whatever the chair wanted, I just made sure we did it in a sound financial way," Spaulding said.

As for the conflict, Spaulding gave

advice for the 1997 committee: "Don't let personal conflicts of interest undermine your role to the student body. Always remember you

are financed through student fees, and student wants should come first."

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Individual courses are also offered during the evening and individual elective courses are offered during the day.

The application deadline for the Summer 1997 program is May 1, 1997. Space is limited: Early application is encouraged.

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Howard University
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ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT NEWS BRIEF #19

7 MARCH 1997

Telephone Instructions

 **General Mandatory Registration** 
Monday, 31 March-Saturday, 11 April

- ① Contact your academic advisor who must approve your course selection.
- ① Dial 202-806-4537 using a touchtone telephone to reserve courses.
- ① Provide the following information when HUPROS prompts you:

❖ Your six-digit numerical student ID number.

❖ The numerical representation of the first three letters of your last name according to this format.

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For names consisting of only two characters, enter a space as the last character. Use the Translation Table, noting that each character representation starts with an asterisk (*).

Translation Table to Convert Alpha Characters to Numeric

A = *21	G = *41	M = *61	T = *81	Q = *11
B = *22	H = *42	N = *62	U = *82	Z = *12
C = *23	I = *43	O = *63	V = *83	' = *08
D = *31	J = *51	P = *71	W = *91	- = *09
E = *32	K = *52	R = *72	X = *92	Space = *00
F = *33	L = *53	S = *73	Y = *93	

- ① Use the *Student Reference Manual and Directory of Classes* to select your courses. Before calling HUPROS, complete the Instruction Sheet in the *Manual*.

ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT NEWS BRIEF #18

7 MARCH 1997

Fall 1997

 **General Mandatory
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**31 March-11 April
Monday-Saturday**

*You must register during
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To complete General Mandatory Registration, you must:

- ♦ Use HU-PROS (202-806-4537) 7AM-8PM to select classes. (Note: SOLAR operators will not be available to enter your courses. Students must select courses using HU-PROS.)
- ♦ Remove any of the following holds: Academic, Address, Admission, Advisor's, Housing, International, Medical, Student Affairs, Treasurer's.
- ♦ Pick up class schedule and bill printouts in Cramton's lower level 9AM-3PM to confirm your selection and amount due.

LOCAL

Chinatown residents, businesses prepare for new basketball arena *Parking, security problems expected, residents say*

By Bobby White
Hilltop Staff Writer

Imagine a vacant lot in the heart of Washington, decorated with broken bottles and vagrants panhandling for cents to get booze.

Now what if an investor came through and proposed building a state-of-the-art \$170 million sports arena on that lot?

What if this new arena is capable of seating 20,000 people and equipped with its own shopping mall and eatery to attract hundreds of tourists and raging sports fans, bringing revenue to surrounding businesses?

Would it be a potential traffic and parking headache?

For 18 months, bulldozers and cranes have been erecting the MCI Arena, the new home of the Washington Bullets and Capitals. Community leaders hope the new sports and entertainment complex will breathe new life into downtown Washington.

Yeni Wong, chairman of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Society, an organization that aids in relations with the Chinatown community, said the new MCI Arena, which is being built by Bullet's owner Abe Pollin, is a "gift from heaven."

"How bad is it? Compared to an empty lot, the lot on 7th Street was empty for 14 years before Pollin came along,"

Wong said.

Attempts to create housing and office space last decade failed. Wong, who owns the Golden Roof Chinese restaurant, says that before construction began, there was opposition from residents who were concerned that the District's historical integrity would be lowered and devalued if a new arena was built.

She said the new arena would benefit the Chinatown community by improving business and making the community safer.

"We depend on tourists as does Washington and we are welcoming Mr. Pollin and his organization," Wong said.

Critics of the arena said the District's fleeing tax base and increasing crime rate are fueling the city's troubled financial status. But the arena — with its 110 suites equipped with electronic "smart" seats may very well attract enough people to boost the economics of the cash-strapped city.

"Mr. Pollin and others who are investing in this part of the city are creating a new community and this is a great thing for downtown," said Thom Caplis, a bartender at the Rock, a new sports bar across the street from the arena.

Starbucks Coffee manager Phil Fregoi said he's looking forward to the opening of the arena, and business owners around it may extend their

operating hours to accommodate visitors who aren't quite ready to go home. But with the later hours come increased potential for crime, he said.

"Hopefully with the new arena, this area will be a bit safer," Fregoi said.

Many community residents said the crime rate in Chinatown needs to be addressed if the arena is to prosper.

"This part of the city is going to get cleaned up and more decent people are going to start patroning this community," said Metropolitan Police Detective Benjamin Oh, who works in the department's Asian Liaison Unit.

Sgt. Michael Pavlik, who also works at the Asian Liaison Unit, said the influx of money will help out this community. "It will totally revitalize the entire area," he said.

"Pollin chose this area because he wanted to rejuvenate this part of the city and he already thought it was a great location," said Sharee Brown, executive assistant to the Chief Operating Officer for the MCI Arena.

Brown said before construction began, Pollin — who is also chairman of Capitol Sports — and representatives from MCI and Nations Bank — major investors in the MCI Arena — spoke with the community and CCBA members to get their



MCI is building a \$170 sports arena in Northwest Washington near Chinatown.

Photo by Chris Bel

views of the proposed project.

"Pollin and his associates want to aid the community and make it a safe place," Brown said.

Not only will the Bullets — who will become the Washington Wizards next fall — and the Capitals compete at the new arena, but entertainers, ice shows and special events will also take place at the arena.

Construction is planned to end in late fall, Brown said.

"We're happy they're coming," said David Wang, Hunan Chinatown manager. "We're really happy about anything good for Chinatown,

but we hope they are careful with parking and traffic."

Wang said he expects the majority of his business to come before events at the arena.

"We are looking forward to it, but we don't know until it opens and we see what happens," he said.

With the coming attractions, the added traffic could be a hassle when it comes to parking, many residents fear. To accommodate new parking demands, the complex will contain two levels of parking. Within a seven-block radius, there will be 5,000 spaces in various privately owned

parking lots.

With scarce parking, the Metropolitan Police Department's parking enforcement agency is looking forward to the new arena to bolster parking-ticket profits, said one parking enforcement officer who patrols Chinatown and refused to reveal her name.

"I hope more parking violations happen because right now I am unable to meet my quota."

But for those who don't want to drive the arena is accessible by Metro, Brown said.

People's Expo draws thousands to District for entertainment and information

By Keya Graves
Hilltop Staff Writer

Ivan Hall, 11, of Temple Hill, Md., was busy putting his mind to work last week at the People's Expo in the D.C. Armory when his heart started beating rapidly as his fingers raced against the ticking clock.

"I did it, I put all the organs in the right place," Hall said confidently. "I knew I could do it."

Hall was playing a game that was sponsored by the National Institute of Health's Marrow Donor Center, who rewarded youngsters who placed organs in the correct place with a football and poster of Michael Jordan.

The D.C. Armory was packed with about 200 vendors for the People's Expo, which was sponsored by radio stations 93.9 Kiss FM, Magic 102.3, and WOL 1450.

Many Black-owned inventors and businesses stole the floor as they flashed their merchandise to the perspective customers who passed their booths.

Bruce Smith, a Black inventor, lathered up a crowd as he demonstrated his dream invention: The Soap Buster — a Soap Chip Saver.

"No longer will you need to ask what to do with all those

small unusable soap chips," Smith said.

His invention takes small leftover soap chips and turns them into a colorful rainbow bar of soap.

"I'm always buying those beautiful colored soaps; with a machine like this I can buy my own," Cathy Matlin said as she watched the demonstration with amazement.

Those who were not interested in transforming a bar of soap or tasting some finger-licking good barbecue sauce, had other options.

Jaqueline Patterson, a senior majoring in administrative justice at Howard, said she was captured by the African art work that was being displayed by The Art Fuze booth.

"I'm looking to buy some beautiful art work produced by an African-American artist," Patterson said. "I was interested in coming to the Expo because I wanted to be exposed to the many Black-owned businesses in the area."

Patterson said she was excited about seeing Erykah Badu and Dru Hill perform.

Badu and Dru Hill were two of the nationally known artists who rocked the stage. There were other live performances that moved the crowd, a talent

show and a skin-shedding fashion show that had women awing and protective parents covering their children's eyes.

The fashion show was not the only time viewers could take a peek at skin; a few vendors were offering paying customers the opportunity to take a keepsake picture with women in bikini's and men in swim trunks.

Some parents were not able to shield their children from the nudity that was being flaunted in their youngsters' faces.

"My cousin Ray kept wanting to go back to the booth where ladies were showing their body," Hall said. "My cousin kept pulling me there and I kept pulling him away."

There was some entertainment for the kids who took a leap into the Moon Walk, and took a shoot at hoops, while parents attended some informative seminars, such as Nations Bank, 1st Time Home Buying, Managing Your Money and Basic Banking. United Negro College Fund sponsored a seminar for teen-agers, Dream A Higher Education, A Reality.

"I think the Expo had something to offer for everyone," said Carmen Royal, a spectator. "I was glad to see everyone unite."



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NATIONAL

Chavis: Moves to NOI inspired by spirituality, not by politics

By Harold D. Philpot
Hilltop Staff Writer

Benjamin Chavis Muhammad declared last week that his reasons for joining the Nation of Islam were motivated only by his spirituality and not by any political aspirations. "My decision has nothing to do with politics, nothing to do with economics," Chavis Muhammad said in an interview with *The Hilltop* Friday. "It has all to do with God's calling."

His response came as critics of Chavis Muhammad and Nation of Islam leader Minister Louis Farrakhan continue to argue that their relationship is purely political. They believe Farrakhan is attempting to broaden the appeal of his movement.

One critic, Manning Marable of Columbia University, charged that Farrakhan sees Chavis Muhammad as an open door to Black professional organizations, fraternities, sororities and especially Black Christian denominations.

Writing in his syndicated column, Marable said he believes Chavis Muhammad needs Farrakhan for personal financial support and political rehabilitation.

Chavis Muhammad describes his relationship with Farrakhan as "evolutionary." He said it was the result of a shared interest in ending the disunity among African-American leaders and the work they did together on projects beginning with the African-American Leadership Summit in June 1994. It was during the third Summit in

Chicago that Minister Farrakhan announced the Million Man March. Later during the year, Farrakhan announced Chavis Muhammad would serve as executive director of the March.

Since the October 1995 March, Chavis Muhammad has traveled frequently with Farrakhan and has often appeared at his side.

The former head of the NAACP first announced that he had joined the organization at the Nation of Islam's Saviour's Day festivities in Chicago. The crowd of 6,000 people cheered and applauded the announcement.

"My decision has nothing to do with politics, nothing to do with economics."

--Ben Chavis Muhammad

The former minister of the United Church of Christ also said that he would not be addressed as the Rev. Benjamin Chavis. Now, he would be addressed as Benjamin Chavis Muhammad.

"I'm turning to Allah, God bless you," he said during the announcement.

Chavis Muhammad responded to his critics by saying they were "overly simplistic" with his reasons for allying himself with Farrakhan and joining the Nation of Islam. National newspapers "often miss the mark when dealing with issues in the African American community," he said.

Chavis Muhammad first made national headlines as a member of the Wilmington 10, a group of

activists convicted in the 1971 firebombing of a White-owned grocery store in Wilmington, N.C. After four years, his conviction was overturned on appeal.

He received his doctorate of ministry from the Howard University School of Divinity in 1981. Chavis Muhammad was named executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in May 1993.

He was ousted by the organization's Board of Trustees 16 months later. The NAACP said the action was the result of misappropriation of funds.

Professor Alvin Thornton, chairman of the Howard University Department of Political Science, said he believes the NAACP's action was the result of many things. Among them

was the allocation of more than \$300,000 in funds to quiet sexual harassment allegations against Chavis Muhammad. Also, Thornton said there was a problem with "compatibility in terms of the ideological direction that Mr. Chavis wanted to provide."

He believes that this combination caused a perception on the Board that there would be "loss of support from the more traditional, more moderate base of the NAACP."

Chavis Muhammad was key in the organization of the Million Man March. He personally traveled throughout the country speaking at numerous public events and media programs on behalf of the mobilization of the March.

Courts strike down Black Congressional district in Virginia

By Aprill Turner
Hilltop Staff Writer

The district that elected the first Black member of Congress from Virginia this century is unconstitutional because it was drawn too heavily along racial lines, a panel of judges ruled recently.

The three-judge panel ruled unanimously that Virginia's third Congressional district was racially gerrymandered and that no more congressional elections can be held in the district until the General Assembly draws new lines.

Rep. Robert C. Scott, D, held the third district seat, which covers southeastern and central Virginia, and has a 62 percent Black voting age population. Unless the ruling is overturned on an appeal, Scott will be forced to run again in 1998 in a newly drawn district.

Scott expressed disappointment, but says he hopes the panel will be satisfied with only minor changes to not only his district but others as well.

"I would hope that we would do districts with minimal disruption," Scott said.

The lawsuit challenging the Virginia district was filed by two Republican activists, Navy retiree Donald Moon, and a Black taxi cab driver and unsuccessful candidate for local office, Robert Smith. They were aided by the Campaign for a Color Blind America, a Houston-based organization that has raised money for similar lawsuits in at least six states.

With the implementation of the Voting Rights Act in 1965, drawing oddly shaped districts was allowed



Courtesy of the office of the Congressman
Rep. Robert C. Scott (D-Va.) represents a district that has been ruled unconstitutional because it was drawn on racial lines. He may have to run again in 1998 in a newly drawn district.

to give minorities a better chance to win office.

But as recently as June, The Supreme Court has found some of the race-conscious redistricting went too far. Virginia is one of the many Southern states that falls under the Voting Rights Act because of its history of segregation.

"Now that the district has been ruled unconstitutional, it is not clear how much Black representation is needed to satisfy the courts and the requirements of the Voting Rights Act," said Larry Dillard, an aide to Scott.

Predominantly minority congressional districts in Texas and North Carolina have also been

accused of making race the main factor in drawing boundaries. Other federal courts have disbanded mostly minority districts in Georgia, Louisiana and Florida.

Many Republican legislators also pushed for one district with a large majority of Blacks to enhance their chance in neighboring districts which would have more White voters.

For instance, in Scott's current district, the east side line ends where there is a substantial number of Black voters. On the other side of the line mostly rich, White, waterside property owners reside. The line appears to have been drawn to help out Scott as well as the neighboring congressman.

Professional degrees given to Black women increase 219 percent over last 20 years

By Steven Gray
Local Editor

The number of African-American women obtaining law, medical and other professional degrees has increased by a staggering 219 percent over the last 20 years, according to a study released last week by the United Negro College Fund.

What's more, the number of associate's degrees awarded to Black women during the period from 1974 to 1994 increased by 60 percent, while the number of bachelor's degrees awarded continues to surge.

UNCF president William H. Gray called the study, which shows Black women are almost twice as likely than Black men to go to college, "the most significant data on the status of Blacks and education."

"Let the facts speak for themselves," Gray said in an interview last week. "They explode a lot of myths that have been held about Blacks and education."

Despite surmounting financial obstacles, the percentage of African Americans in college rose from 8.8 percent in 1984 to roughly 10 percent in 1994, still falling short of the group's college-age population share, according to the Fund's Frederick Peterson Institute.

Nearly one-third of African-American students at four-year universities had family incomes of

less than \$20,000. And a higher percentage of Black college students receive financial aid than White college students, according to the report.

Roughly 42 percent of Black college students rely on loans, compared to 29 percent of White students.

However, the average loan amount awarded to Black students was \$3,142, slightly lower than the \$3,482 awarded to White students.

"We conceded that there are lots of people who want to go to college, but can't," said Michael Nettles, executive director Peterson Institute. "We acknowledge that there is a gap in the percentage of African Americans enrolled in college, but it's important to acknowledge the progress that we're making."

U.S. Education Secretary Richard Riley responded to the study by urging schools to reach out to Black males to "equalize" degree attainment rates with Black women.

Overall, roughly 24 percent more African-American females are enrolled in college than Black men. And twice as many Black women receive bachelor's or master's degrees than Black men each year.

Enrollment at historically Black colleges and universities is higher than ever before: African-American enrollment at HBCU's increased by 21 percent between 1976 and 1994.

HBCU's awarded 28.5 percent of all bachelor's degrees to African

Americans, while the number of degrees awarded to Black students on predominately White campuses increased by 55 percent.

The number of White students enrolled at HBCU's has bolstered by 70 percent, according to the study.

But while the percentage of African Americans going to college surged, the overall academic picture is not so rosy:

- * 30 percent of all African-American college freshman receive remedial training, compared to only one in seven Whites.

- * 10 percent of all college undergraduates are African American, but they receive only 6 percent of all bachelor's degrees.

- * African Americans were less represented than Whites at all degree levels in important fields technical fields including engineering, physical sciences and life sciences.

- * 5 percent of all college faculty are African American.

- * African Americans were twice as likely to be unemployed one year after graduation.

"The economic benefits of going to college are very strong and most young people know that if they go to college, their future income will increase," said Antoine Garibaldi, Howard University provost.

MacArthur Foundation Fellowship

THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

The Art Institute of Chicago is accepting applications for two 2-year MacArthur Foundation Fellowships, designed to foster personal and professional growth for students considering a museum career.

The Fellows will receive on the job training in one curatorial area, encompassing the care and maintenance of collections; the creation, development and installation of exhibitions; the research, preparation and presentation of educational materials; and departmental administrative procedures. The Fellows will interact with other museum departments through ongoing work and special projects.

The Fellowships extend from October 1, 1997, to September 30, 1999, and include salary plus benefits, travel expenses for academic projects and study materials.

Applicants must have strong academic records reflecting an interest in art history and share our commitment to enhancing diversity within the museum environment. BA degree minimum, MA preferred. Students of diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply. We are dedicated to the concept of equal employment and academic opportunity.

Send a 1-page cover letter summarizing your interest; resume and official transcripts; 2 letters of recommendation should be submitted independently by referees, to: Kim Kruskop, Coordinator of Internship Programs, The Art Institute of Chicago, MC/MAH, 111 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60603-6110. Applications must be received by March 31, 1997. EOE.

Interested in writing for the National page?
Call Natalie Hopkinson at *The Hilltop*.
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INTERNATIONAL

Marcus Garvey's legacy lives through Universal Negro Improvement Association

By Karen Thomas
Hilltop Staff Writer

In 1922, the man who came to be known as one of the greatest leaders in the struggle for justice, economic freedom and the unification of African people around the world spoke at Howard University.

Now, 74 years later, the life, contributions and effect of Marcus Mosiah Garvey were discussed recently by Emory Tolbert, chairman of the department of African Studies at Howard.

The discussion, titled "Marcus Garvey and Pan-Africanism: Implications for the 21st Century," hosted by the International Affairs Center, highlighted Garvey's role in the struggle for justice, socioeconomic advancement, and the unification of Black people everywhere.

The beginning

Born in Jamaica to a poor family, Garvey, who dropped out of school at age 14, became a printer's apprentice and mastered the skill by age 18. In 1916, he migrated to New York and began his journey around the country preaching justice for Blacks.

However, Garvey's activist career did not begin in America, but in Jamaica where he displayed his activism by helping to organize a strike of workers at a printing company where he was a manager.

In a short time, Garvey traveled to Costa Rica where again he said he was disgusted with the treatment of workers. During his travels he became troubled by the treatment of Blacks.

It was in London that Garvey began to concentrate on America. He returned to Jamaica and founded the Universal Negro Improvement Association. He was unsuccessful in creating mass involvement in the movement so he came to America.

Pan-Africanism

Two years after he arrived in America, he started another UNIA chapter and The Negro World, a newspaper used as a vehicle to

spread the movement's message. It was circulated in America, Africa and Europe and survived for years.

Joseph Harris, professor in the department of History, acknowledged Garvey's greatness, but reminded the group that before Garvey came on the scene, people of African descent were manifesting the Pan-African thought in a number of ways.

Harris referred to these early attempts as unorganized Pan-Africanism. In fact it was those manifestations that prepared the way for the quick growth of Garvey's organized movement, Harris said.

"The movement of Africans from the continent provided a mechanism for maintaining links," Harris said. "African consciousness remained. It was not wiped out by the middle passage."

Garvey's notion of returning to Africa was not new. In places such as Haiti, Mexico and Cuba, individuals maintained a consciousness of Africa in religious practices and even sought to recreate an African society in the need to identify with Africa.

Through revolts, they displayed their desire to return to Africa. Some actually returned.

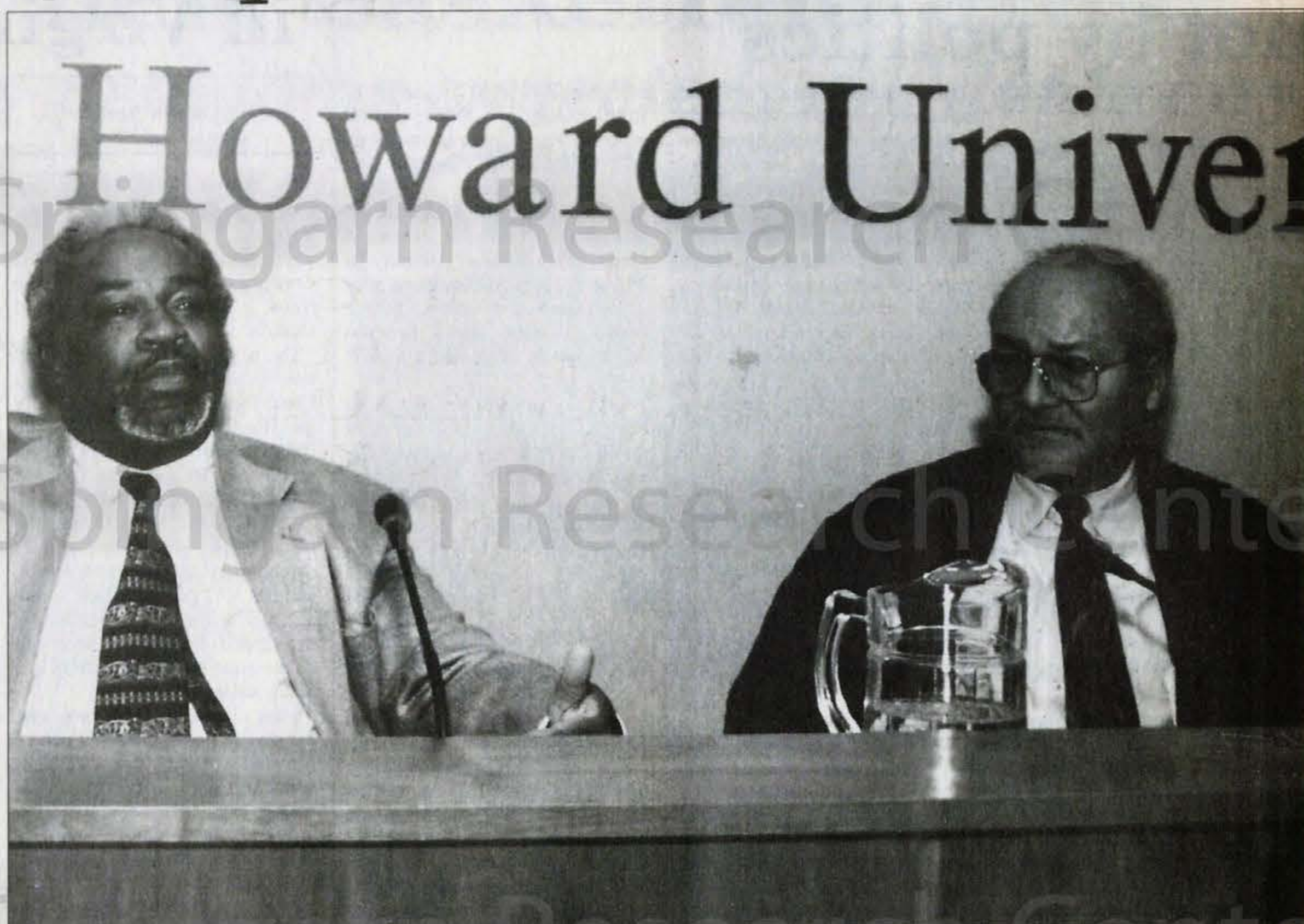
According to Tolbert, Garvey's newspaper was the greatest instrument in spreading the word of unity and economic empowerment.

"One issue that is often overlooked [is] his writing," Tolbert said. "It was important in spreading the word and awakening consciousness."

According to historians, Garvey's other strength was that he spoke of current events in a powerful way. He saw Black input in the organization of the world at the end of World War I as not only necessary, but also imperative.

In addition, with the influx of European immigrants into America, Garvey felt that soon Blacks would be of irrelevance in America.

Garvey felt these circumstances called for an urgent awareness of individuals to prepare themselves to relocate, or at least to have the



Photos by Pedro de Weever

Seventy-four years after his death, Marcus Mosiah Garvey is remembered by Howard University. Emory Tolbert, chairman of the department of African Studies, and Joseph Harris, professor of the department of History discuss Garvey's struggle for justice.

status and power of Africa improve the extent that it would inspire African descendants elsewhere.

He was especially concerned that Blacks would be organized out of any power or any significant place in the world.

Although Garvey's movement built on other small units of similar teaching, he was said to be a powerful speaker. He took his message to the street corners of Harlem, which historians say helped the movement grow from a few in 1918, to more than 1000 in 1920.

Garvey's message was

characterized by self-determination. He firmly believed Black people should decide their agenda.

Some listeners questioned the role of women in the movement. Others asked about the controversy between Garvey and W.E.B. Du Bois, whose views were more general and theoretical.

As a journalist and businessman, Garvey didn't just talk, he started a steamship company called the Black Star Line to create jobs.

By the time Garvey became a marked man by federal authorities he already had established a legacy

and lasting impression on African people around the world.

After numerous attempts to shut him up, Garvey was arrested by federal agents in 1922 and charged with mail fraud.

He was convicted, fined and sentenced to five years in prison in 1925. He was released in 1927 and deported to Jamaica. He later moved to London where he died in 1940.

The Legacy

Some say Blacks have not done enough to unite the race. "We have disappointed him," said

Ade Banjo of Nigeria. "If Garvey comes back today, he will be very unhappy with the Black man. We have grown further apart."

Marcus Garvey Jr., the son and seventh elected successor of Marcus Garvey, now leads the UNIA, which was founded in August 1914.

"The UNIA is still on the front line, fighting for African sovereignty, economically, politically, educationally, redemption, emancipation and empowerment worldwide," said William Jackson Bey, a member of UNIA.

ISS prepares for 4th annual International Week festivities

By Karen Thomas
Hilltop Staff Writer

In the ongoing effort to teach and promote student understanding of the diverse make-up of Howard's campus, International Student Services will host its fourth International Week on Mar. 8-15.

Without leaving campus, students will get a chance to savor some international flavors in food, dance, folklore, music and poetry.

"The goal is to highlight the diversity that exists on campus using different forums, culturally, politically [and] educationally," said Grace Ansah-Birikorang, director of ISS.

Though it is a long way from creating campuswide interest in international activities, ISS administrators said they will continue to foster awareness in every way.

"The event is not just to feed students and give them entertainment, but to raise awareness of the international cultural diversity on campus," said Darryl Zeigler, assistant director of ISS.

"Howard University: A Cultural Mosaic," is the theme for this year's celebration. According to the ISS, a mosaic reflects how the group sees the campus and the point it attempts to address.

"It is a tapestry. It is beautiful, we are so busy focusing at differences that we see this mosaic as fragmented and we miss the beauty that is inherent in these differences," Ansah-Birikorang said.

According to Ansah-Birikorang, this theme expresses the center's objective and highlights the essence of the groups of which many are unaware.

"We hope people will gain appreciation for the talents, similarities and differences and add to their understanding of other cultures," Ansah-Birikorang said.

Everyone is encouraged to get involved and come up with ways to create a true cultural awareness.

"We would like to see more interaction between American and international groups, and we hope to encourage that by exposing the

"We hope people will gain appreciation for the talents, similarities and differences and add to their understanding of other cultures."

--Grace Ansah-Birikorang, ISS director

University to the different aspects of the various cultures we have here," Zeigler said, adding that the programs will inform and educate all students so that they can become more tolerant and appreciative of other cultures.

Ansah-Birikorang said more faculty participation is needed to highlight the cultural dynamics on campus.

"We hope that faculty will become interested and encourage their students to participate and report on events for extra credit," she said.

The week's activities will open Sunday with an 11 a.m. worship service at Rankin Memorial Chapel where Cornel West will speak.

Other activities include an international dance exhibition and a presentation of Voodoo religion Monday, a poetry cipher and ambassadors' mix and mingle Tuesday, a Latino film presentation and discussion Wednesday, an international affairs symposium, career fair and international awards dinner Thursday, an international dance party Friday and excellence awards at the Mecca and Bison Ball

on Saturday.

Also during that week, University dining halls will offer a range of international dishes including Indian tandori chicken, African jollof rice, French bouillabaisse, Spanish paella and Asian moo goo gai pan. There will also be a pictorial display of cultural items in the Blackburn Center Lounge and a showcase at the Undergraduate Library.

On Thursday Mar. 13, the center will hold an international awards dinner featuring steel band music and the Maru Montero Dance Company at the Blackburn University Ballroom. Tickets are \$10 for students and \$20 for the general public.

Instructors who have served the international community and others who have contributed to the promotion of cultural linkages and integration of the staff, students and faculty of the Howard community will also be recognized during this week.

Although many sponsored international programs have had minimal student participation, the center said interest has grown in the last two years, particularly from organizations and departments. With more than six organizations and departments participating in planning and sponsoring programs, the center expects even more participation this year.

Students are planning to attend. Beverly Green, a sophomore majoring in legal communications, was too busy to go in the past, but plans to go this time.

Some of the events are free, while others will cost between \$3 and \$20. The money raised will be used to pay performers and other expenses, said ISS. Additional profits will be used for more programs on campus.

The international center invites everyone to join the celebration.

"A lot of work has gone into planning international week for the benefit of the Howard community," said Marquitta Webb, principal coordinator of the planning committee. "I hope that everyone comes out and supports this worthwhile venture."

For more information, students should check bulletin boards and other areas around campus, including the ISS, for flyers about upcoming activities. Tickets are available at Cramton Auditorium.

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EDITORIAL

Police should handle civilian, police murders equally

The recent rash of police killings raises serious questions about community-police relations. Some have asserted that the murders of the two police officers is evidence of a changing psychology. In the past, pundits assert, people would kill each other, but they simply would not kill cops.

The growing willingness of criminals to murder officers is indicative of a new, more brazen criminal element. What these commentators fail to realize is that the attitude of the police toward police murderers as opposed to the attitude of police toward civilian murderers is part of the problem.

Whenever a police officer is murdered, the suspect is hunted with all the fury that the local department can muster. When the suspected murderer is cornered, it is not unusual that the suspect ends up in a coffin. If the suspect manages to live through the confrontation, it is not rare for the police to beat the living daylights out of the suspect and make him wish he were dead.

If the suspect makes it to trial, the District Attorney pursues the case with a special vigor. The local Fraternal Order of Police invokes all of the rhetoric at their disposal, demanding the death penalty. If there was a

higher penalty, the FOP would go for it.

The level of effort that is exhibited when ordinary people are gunned down in the street can't begin to parallel this energy. Unfortunately, Black men are murdered in the streets everyday and these cases often go unsolved. There are no special groups to pursue the cases, instead they often languish on the legal back burner.

The fact that more attention is paid to murderers of police officers than to murderers of civilians is backwards. The fact is that police officers take a job that puts them in the line of fire. The job of the officers is to serve and protect civilians and if necessary put their lives on the line and die in the service of their community.

Innocent bystanders who die in the streets don't get paid to serve and protect their communities. But police do. It is understood that the risk is part of the job.

This does not mean that we are unsympathetic to the two recent murders of police officers. But we understand that if the police put as much energy into protecting innocents as they do into protecting their own, things would go a lot smoother.

Our View:
The police force should put as much energy into solving civilian murders as they put into solving murders of their own.

Student protest against merger shows solidarity

"They shouldn't have done it like this. There is a time and place for everything," scowled a student who attended the Charter Day program. She, like the majority of the audience in Cramton Auditorium on Tuesday, couldn't believe her eyes. The tremors that had been bubbling beneath the surface all year exploded on the stage in the form of a mass of black-clad students protesting the Fine Arts merger.

It was not the smoothest way to do things and certainly not the most diplomatic. But what the above mentioned student failed to realize was that "smoother," more diplomatic ways were tried all year, and all of them had been proven futile.

There was a Town Hall Meeting last semester regarding the mergers. But President Swygert's presence and remarks at that meeting were just lip service designed to appease the students. The Framework had already been written and student input was simply an insignificant formality.

There was the meeting with the Provost that resulted in more confusion than clarity. Student leadership, which purports to represent the interest of the students, had declared its unwillingness to lead in the form of an organized protest.

This left the students with no other options except seizing the moment and forcing President Swygert to meet with them.

Embarrassing? Maybe. But what is more embarrassing is that Howard would attempt to get rid of the only College of Fine Arts in the nation at a historically Black university. The psychology that motivates such an idea is steeped in superficial appearances, not in Howard

history.

"They never go to class. They sit in front on the Fine Arts steps all day," remarked one student in the audience.

But what people fail to realize is that Fine Arts students work hard like every other student at Howard University. They have rehearsals, shows, auditions and performances conducive to their respective majors. In fact, it is the College of Fine Arts that has produced most of Howard's famous alumni. We never hear anyone belittle the accomplishments of Debbie Allen, Phylicia Rashad, Roberta Flack, Lynn Whitfield, Richard Smallwood, Pearl Cleage or Diane Houston. But they belittle the institution that produced them. It was ironic to see Debbie Allen being honored as the host of the

Charter Day dinner, while the Administration had conceived a plan to destroy the institution that created her. But this is the madness that passes as strategic at Howard.

Perhaps the most important aspect of the protest was the fact that the students were the ones who took action.

Despite the lack of progressive student leadership, the students took charge and demanded to be heard. On Charter Day, it was the students who led, and the leaders who begrudgingly followed.

We are pleased to see that the students of Howard have at last risen up to declare that they will not be willing participants in an ill-conceived plan. They have risen up to say that they will not go quietly. Administrative figure heads and "Power Hall" elitists will not silence them.

The students of Howard have spoke; now the world

Our View:
The protest interrupting Charter Day regarding the College of Fine Arts merger was timely and necessary.

Rejecting Mumia Abu-Jamal's radio commentaries hurts students

Recent reports of the radio newsmagazine show "Democracy Now!" pulling the plug on Mumia Abu-Jamal's commentaries was disheartening, but learning that Temple University's WRTI was one of the radio stations to yank the show was down right discouraging.

Abu-Jamal, a former radio journalist who was sentenced to death for the 1981 murder of a Philadelphia police officer, has the constitutional right to be heard even if he is on death row. But WRTI argued that it is inappropriate to give convicted murderers a forum for expressing their views.

That a university would take such a closed-minded stance on the free exchange of ideas is not only discouraging, but it is also frightening. The main purpose for attending a college or university after high school is to become a better thinker. This quality makes us better people. One of the joys of being one of the "learned" is that you supposedly have superior critical thinking and analytical skills after dedicating a few years of your life to achieving this goal.

Of course, critical thinking can only occur when more than one viewpoint is expressed. And contrary to popular belief, critical thinking can take place outside of the classroom. When Temple University took one of the viewpoints off the air, it snatched the opportunity for individual decision-makers to draw their own con-

clusions from the hands of its listeners.

No one is saying whether Temple University or Abu-Jamal is right or wrong, but that everyone deserves the opportunity to decide for themselves. By yanking the program and citing appropriateness as an action, WRTI took that opportunity away.

The old saying "freedom of the press (or of the airwaves) belongs to those who own it," has proven itself true again. And radio stations have the right to air or

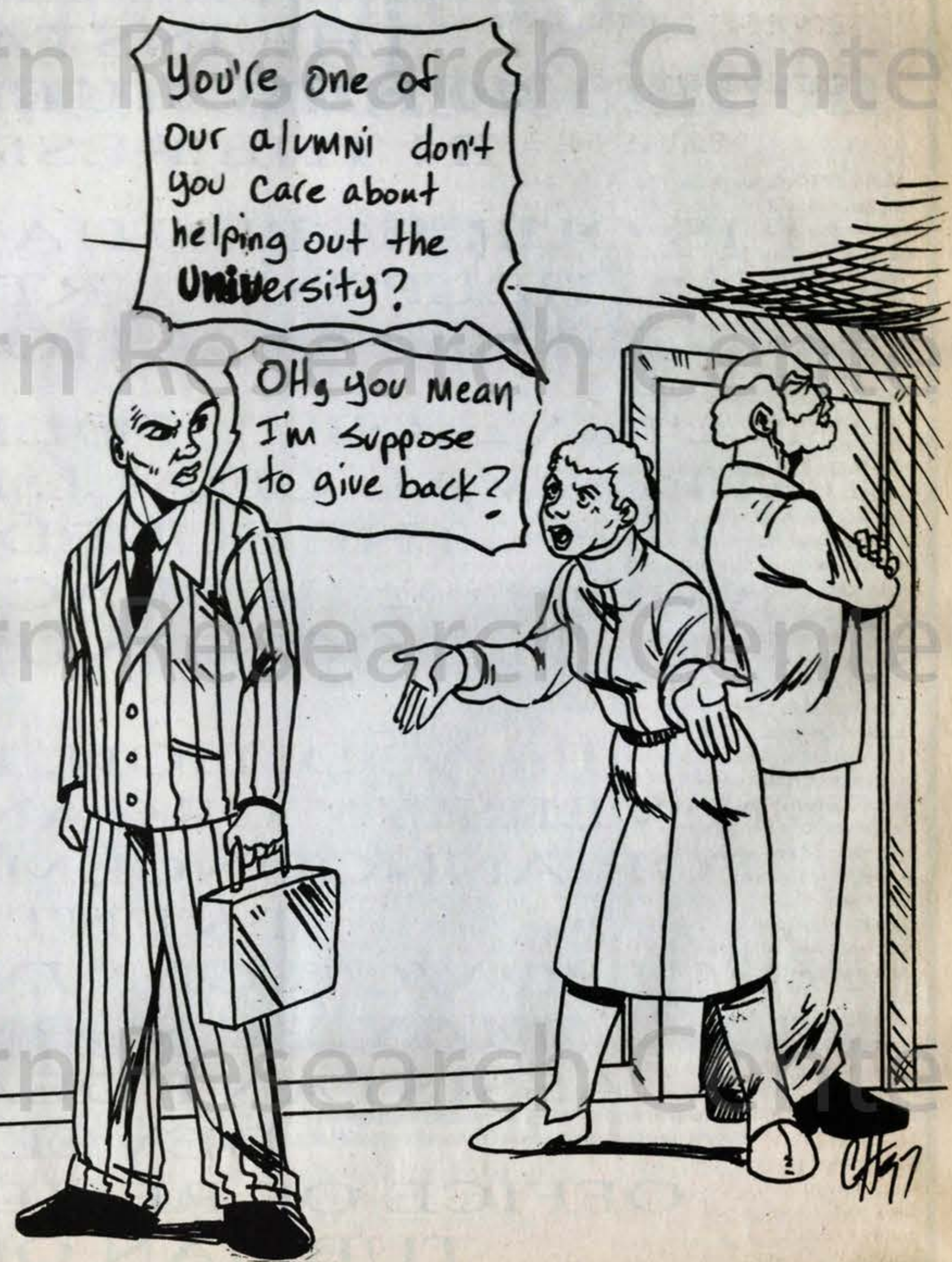
refuse to air exactly what they please. But The Hilltop holds Temple University's WRTI to a higher standard. As an institution whose purpose is to seek truth and knowledge, Temple should know better.

An institution of higher education is ethically bound to educate its students as best as possible.

And we all know that exposure to varying viewpoints and different experiences are integral parts of the learning process and probably provide exercises that build some of life's most important skills: respecting differing opinions and deciding what is right and wrong.

When institutions begin to weed out the information and viewpoints they deem "inappropriate," students no longer have the opportunity to think for themselves. And when critical thinking is hampered, the mission of the university needs to be re-evaluated.

Our view:
Temple University's radio station does disservice to students by denying certain viewpoints.



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THE HILLTOP encourages you to share your views, opinions and ideas. We publish only material addressed to us, and routinely edit letters for space and style. Letters as well as commentaries must be typed signed with full addresses and telephone numbers.

The opinions expressed on the Editorial Page are solely the views of the Editorial Board, and do not reflect the opinions of Howard University, its administration, THE HILLTOP Board or the students.

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PERSPECTIVES

Theo Spencer

Investing in athletics could pay academic dividends

March 1997 marks yet another year Howard will not qualify for post-season play. The Howard men's basketball team breaks every stereotype about Blacks being good basketball players. Furthermore, the Bison's coach, Mike McLeese, has a win to loss differential that would be an impressive score after a couple rounds of golf. What is the problem with the basketball team?

First, Mike McLeese is really not to blame for all of the shortcomings of the basketball team. McLeese came to Howard after a few years of coaching a very good high school basketball team. McLeese undertook a big responsibility by accepting the job at Howard. He was hired to coach the men's basketball team and also to recruit talented players from the metropolitan area.

Unfortunately, talented players from the metro area either want to go to Georgetown University or the University of Maryland, College Park. Many times, the best players from this area want to take their talent to other parts of the country. Consequently, it is very hard to try and build a respectable team comprised mainly of area talent.

People underestimate the challenges that face a head basketball coach at the college level. As a high school coach, McLeese did not have to worry about recruiting players. High school coaches make their living in the classroom; they don't have to worry about putting food on the table based on their ability to coach.

Secondly, Howard's conference, the Mid Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC), is one of the weakest conferences in the nation. Every year, only one team from the MEAC makes it to the NCAA playoffs. Every year, that MEAC representative automatically becomes somebody's sacrificial lamb. The MEAC is too weak to garner television coverage. If there is any hope of having a good basketball team, Howard has to be on national television five or six times a season. The entire MEAC does

six times a season.

College basketball is a multimillion dollar business. Unfortunately, the MEAC may never earn money comparable to other conferences its size. A trip to the NCAA Division I playoffs is worth \$250,000 to the conference of that college. A trip to the NCAA championship game is worth more than \$4 million. The University of Michigan earned the Big Ten Conference more than \$8 million in a two-year span from two championship game appearances. Endorsements and selling their rights to television earned Michigan more money and also served as free advertisement for the school.

Most of the schools in the Big Ten would not have survived if it were not for athletics. Schools like Ohio State and Penn State turned to athletics and created football teams because of state cuts in funding. These schools used money raised from football games to expand their campuses.

Howard University is not willing to make a commitment to maintaining a winning men's basketball program. Most of the people in administration do not care about winning — the main concern at Howard is education. Unfortunately, the commitment this school needs to make has nothing to do with education. The commitment this school should make is about investing money into a sports program with hopes of getting more money out of the sports program.

The biggest reason why Howard has a losing basketball team is because no one thinks that basketball can make money. Predominantly White colleges understand that athletics make money. These schools earn money by accepting good athletes rather than good students. The money White schools raise from athletics funds medical research at their hospitals. This money pays for every new facility on their campus. Their teams bring alumni support to the university. Will Howard ever understand what it is missing by not having a good basketball team?



Bishop Chui

Rebirth of a Nation

Some say that niggaz perpetuate. ... I say that niggaz are perpetuated ... in a society that's fabricated ...

My parents used to make me watch "Fat Albert" every Saturday morning. It was an awful chore when I was 5 years old. I hated "Fat Albert," but my parents loved it. I would have rather been watching my favorite super hero cartoon, which happened to be on another station at the same time.

My show had only one Black character, who seemed to be reserved for shows that aired during February (probably because of Black History Month). But who cared, my heroes were super heroes with superpowers, state-of-the-art headquarters and super vehicles.

"Fat Albert" was just some fat Black kid who lived in the ghetto and played in the junkyard. My parents wanted me to watch this kids' show 'cause he was Black. I remember thinking: a cartoon's a cartoon, what's the difference?

Almost 10 years later, Radio Rahim in Spike Lee's film "Do the Right Thing" was violently choked to death by the nightstick of an angry White police officer right before my eyes. Just like most of the other Black men on screen he didn't stand a chance.

Until recently it was the same everywhere. As sure as the fleeing white girl in a horror flick is bound to trip and fall, the first person in any movie to be killed is the Black guy. Black men were

nature.

As if that wasn't enough, strong Black male characters always catch it worst. From Kunta Kinte to Marcellus Wallace ("Pulp Fiction"), Black male characters have all fallen to Hollywood's reputation of being victims.

It's as though being a strong Black man in a White man's world is out of the question. Whites brutalize Blacks on screen, but Blacks hardly ever get to see their own people defend themselves on screen, and you might as well forget about us being the aggressors.

No one ever got to see Marcellus Wallace get "medieval" on that White guy's ass. Even movies like "Sankofa" fail to show Black hands against the oppressor; they'd rather us watch shadows portray the actual event.

Maybe the greatest film that we saw in the 20th century was shot from a helicopter. I know it remains one of the most inspirational films of my life — the one where four Black kids snatch a White truck driver (Reginald Denny) out of his cab and bash him with bricks in the middle of an L.A. intersection. Needless to say they stopped traffic.

Another one of the most inspirational films of my life is "Rosewood," although other Blacks and Whites detest it, I think that it was long overdue.

A strong Black man may be White America's greatest fear (it was definitely J. Edgar Hoover's), but weak Blacks seem to have some reason to fear also. My point is made clear when I witness them all

"Rosewood's" many faultfinders claim that John Singleton and Gregory Poirer have written in a fictional superhero along with the actual residents of the town and somewhere along the line destroyed the film's integrity, reducing it to that of say — a cartoon.

The implications have angered me and in the same breath questioned my own existence. Since when is a strong black man larger-than-life? Is it so hard for us to believe that black people can be respectable heroes too?

Alex Haley's "Roots" is hailed as an American classic, but its author also strayed from the "known" truth. In addition, most people don't challenge the truly mythological "Columbus" in the movie theaters or in the classrooms.

Quiet as it is kept, the historical aspect of "Rosewood" has not been challenged, not because it's flattering or cinematic, but because it's the truth. The truth has reopened a wound in the fabric of what a lot of Americans thought their country was built on.

For a long time neither blacks nor whites wanted to look in the mirror for fear that their images would be inconceivably repulsive. "Rosewood" depicts a palatable image of blacks and a hideous image of whites.

In the beginning of movie history, "Birth of a Nation" did the exact opposite. Today a filmmaker is able to show the true story, but the truth has no effect if no one is willing to look.

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Section

B

Tempo

HU works to increase alumni giving

By Zerline A. Hughes
Hilltop Staff Writer

When the year 1995 dawned on Howard University, this institution was in serious trouble. A resurgent Republican majority had seized Congress for the first time in decades and saw Howard's \$200 million annual subsidy as an all too easy target. Congress voted to end the subsidy, which constituted 40 percent of the university's budget. Without that money Howard would face the possibility of closing its doors forever.

Then Howard's President-designate, H. Patrick Swygert, stepped in and persuaded Congress to reinstate the subsidy. But with a significant portion of its budget still coming from the government, Howard remained and remains at the mercy of Congress.

With such a tenuous future Howard's administration is in desperate need of independent funds.

Most private universities are able to get help from alumni when in such a situation. But Howard has never been one to follow the crowd. And when it comes to alumni funding, Howard has found itself beating a dubiously uncharted path.

Bonita Bolden is a petite woman. But ask the 1974 Howard alumna about giving back and she'll speak with the force of two women.

Sitting in her crowded window

office on the second floor of Howard University Hospital, Bolden first said that she would not give back to Howard, then paused to modify her statement.

"It's hard sometimes to give back for so many reasons," Bolden said. "You give back because you don't want to see the university struggle, but many of us don't see our contributions reciprocated and so we're not motivated in continuing to do so."

Several Howard students have expressed similar reservations about giving back to an institution that takes \$10,000 from them a year and gives them long registration lines, rude administration officials and misplaced paperwork in return.

"I would give to a relative, to help them, but to arbitrarily give, I honestly don't know," said Kelly Fountaine, senior psychology major. "My experiences here will certainly affect how serious I take being a Howard alumna. My experiences here have shaped the possibility of my encouraging others in coming here."

Junior broadcast journalism major Melanie Jackson said that although she will give back to the university, she believes that Howard's problem soliciting alumni funds originates in how Howard treats its students.

"Everyone has the responsibility to give back. Howard does need to recognize ... that the students here

are going to eventually be alumni, so we should be treated better," Jackson said. "I think that the problem with alumni support has to do with their experience here."

Swygert attempted to attribute this to a generation gap noting that "this was not the sentiment of my generation." The statistics beg to

different. Of the total cash "gifts" given to Howard in 1996 only 14 percent of this came from alumni.

Last year only 5 percent of the estimated 65,000 living alumni gave money to Howard.

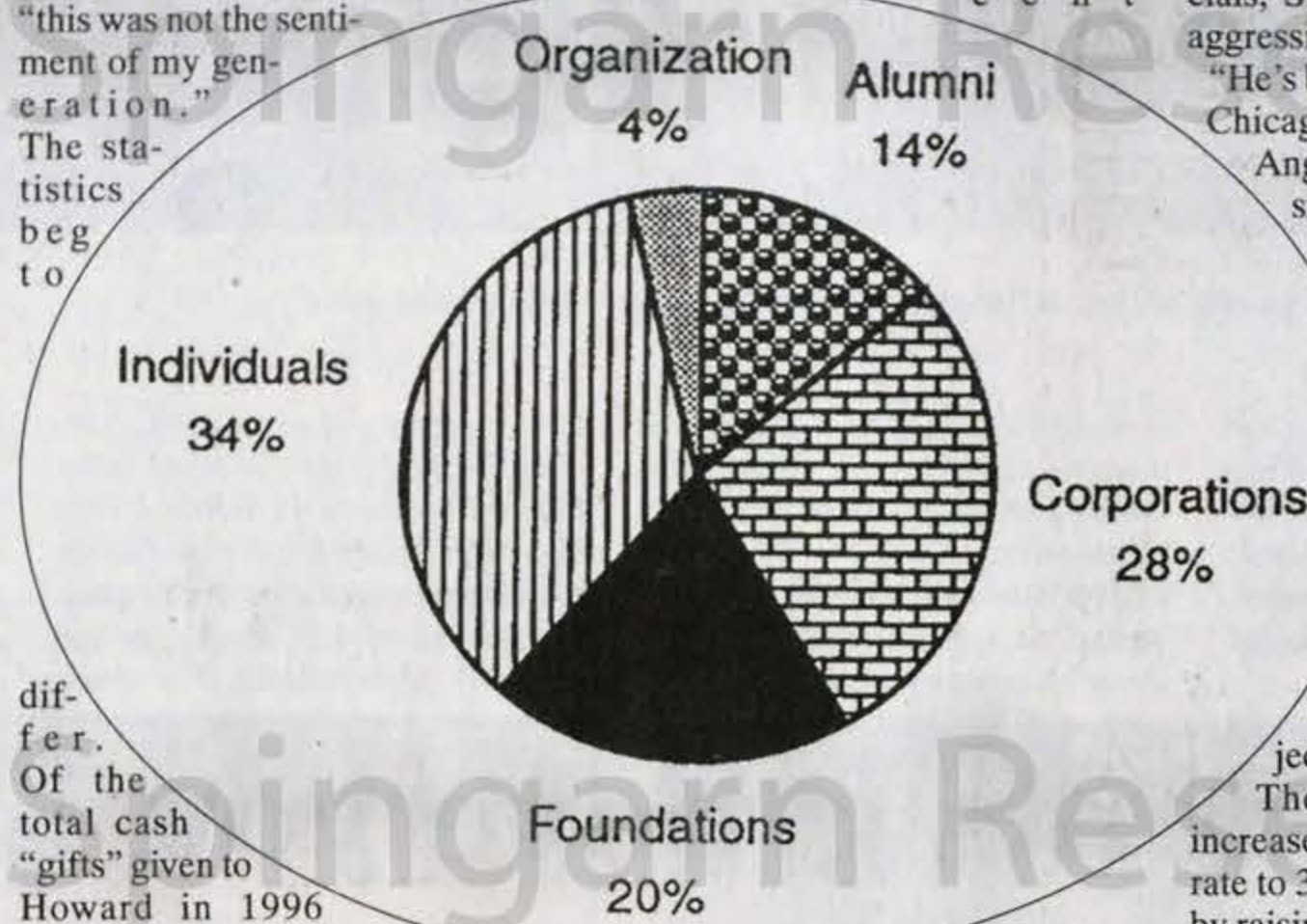
When asked whether this was higher or lower than the average rate, President Swygert, whose Strategic Framework set as one of its main goals the increasing of alumni support, said, "I don't know

whether its been lower or higher."

Swygert said instead of blaming others the criticism should be redirected to the students and the student newspaper.

"Anyone who's attending this institution with those ideas should look at themselves and ask why are they here," Swygert said. "Why did they decide to matriculate at Howard University? They should attempt to understand what HU has done for its students for 130 years. I'm disappointed that this is the mind-set of you and your Hilltop colleagues and to hear that students feel this way."

This fiscal year, the rate of giving by Howard University was \$1,154,235 for the period from July 1 to November 30, 1996, a 340 percent



increase from the \$262,341 alumni gave during the same period last fiscal year, a report from the office of University Communications said.

Francis Stubbs, Coordinator of University Advancement, said the major set-back in acquiring better alumni support is the lack of a Vice President of alumni affairs.

"The way the organization is

structured, the vice president serves the [office of] University Advancement, which is charged with the public relations functions of the university along with the development functions," Stubbs said. "Currently, however, since October, we have been without a vice president."

But, Stubbs said, simply pursuing alumni will not be enough.

"We may need to begin some type of pre-alumni program where we cultivate our students during their Howard tenure in order to establish a life-long relationship with them and the university, as well as make sure that student apathy does not follow the student out of the university," she said.

According to administration officials, Swygert has already begun aggressively pursuing alumni.

"He's been on the road to Atlanta, Chicago, Detroit, Durham, Los Angeles ... to a number of key sights to meet with alumni to hear concerns, to tell them Howard's future plans, etc. because he wants them to continue to feel like they are a part of Howard," Stubbs said. "Fifty-thousand letters have gone out, no soliciting, but to just updating [alumni] on the university — and this will be a regular, ongoing project."

The President's goal is to increase the alumni contribution rate to 30 percent by the year 2001 by raising the current rate 5 percent each year. In an effort to accomplish this, the university will attempt to document donations, update the alumni mailing list, and hire a company to research and compare mailing lists against the National Change of Address database.

So far the work has identified 46,800 alumni as Howard's alumni base with nearly 19,800 lost

alumni. Another company was hired to locate current addresses and telephone numbers of lost alumni.

Candace Jacko, National President of the Howard University Alumni Association, puts the problem in a historical context.

"Because we've been a federally funded college, there's never really been a campaign to educate our students, namely our freshmen, as soon as they walk in the doors explaining that this is your university, and it is your responsibility to maintain it," Jacko said.

Bolden attributes the problem to communication.

"Communication has been bad between alumni and the university. In my experience, I've never got anything back from them — they're quite negligent in communication," Bolden said. "They are not consistent when it comes to establishing a relationship with alumni and maintaining some sort of system of contact."

But like countless other alumni, Bolden gives back in a different way. She works in the Public Relations and Marketing Department in Howard's hospital.

"I'm helping Howard in what I feel is one of the most beneficial ways," Bolden said. "I help to represent a very positive image of Howard through the hospital."

Other alumni also give back to the University by working on campus or offering volunteer time, suggestions, etc. Thus, Howard's alumni support is visual and existent, yet has not materialized into large dollar amounts.

Despite the dismal alumni giving rate, Swygert maintains that Howard is on the right path.

"I don't know if we've had a problem. How one characterizes an issue is important," he said. "I view our alumni as members of our family — not as a problem."

HU should do more to bridge gap to community, residents say

By Mark Jennings
Hilltop Staff Writer

For the past 100 years Howard University has had an unparalleled record as a Black institution of higher learning. Howard's list of alumni reads like a role call for Black leadership.

Its propensity for producing an abundance of greatness has earned it the nickname "The Mecca."

But unlike the Mecca of the Middle East, this Mecca is surrounded by some of the most extreme poverty and suffering that can be seen in this country. The Mecca is an intellectual jewel, housed in one of this nation's least desirable cities.

What is Howard's role in alleviating this abject poverty? Some argue that Howard has contributed nothing to the solution. Others argue that Howard is part of the problem.

Anita Rice works on the third floor of the Howard University School of Business as the departmental secretary for the Accounting Department.

She is also a resident of Ledroit Park, one of the surrounding communities of the University. When she decided to become the president of the Ledroit Park Civic Association in 1990, she found herself trapped between her community and the institution that was paying her bills.

"I have a loyalty and a dedication to Howard, but once I leave here the gloves come off," said Rice, who resigned a month ago because of stress on the job. "This is my job, but that's my community, that's where I live."

Howard and District residents have been in conflict regarding Howard's role in helping to breathe life into the poverty-plagued areas surrounding the University. Many residents who live near the University, such as Juliet Marsh, said Howard has not reached out enough to help its neighbors.

"I have no respect for Howard, they just take, take, take," Marsh said in a Feb. 7th article in *The Hilltop* detailing residents' concerns about Howard's community involvement.

Rice decided to head the Ledroit Park Civic Association because she wanted to help rid her community of the eyesores that detract from the

legacy of the area.

Once the proud home of notable Blacks like Paul Laurence Dunbar, the area is now a haven for poverty, drugs and violence.

"My belief is that if your area looks distressed and there are abandoned properties and trash, then drug dealers look at that and say, 'Hey these people don't care, let's set up shop here,'" Rice said.

On a stroll through the Ledroit community, you can always find littered streets, graffiti, and an influx of abandoned buildings, some of which are used as crack houses.

"Many of the crack houses in the community are Howard University properties," Rice said. She said there are about 30 to 40 distressed properties in her community alone that are owned by Howard University.

One of them, the historic Mary Church Terrell House in the 300 block of T Street, is visible from her front window.

"We call it 'The Half a House,'" Rice said. "The house adjoined to it was torn down, and it is literally half of a house."

Rice has seen little progress in her efforts to get Howard to address the concerns of her community about the houses.

"I have been there since 1980," Rice said, referring to the number of years she has lived in the Ledroit community. "If memory serves me correctly, so have the distressed properties."

She doesn't put full blame on Howard, she gives partial credit to the rift between District residents and the University. She said the division between the two makes it hard for compromises to be met.

"I think there was a strain between Howard and the community," Rice said. "If Howard wanted to set up a nursing home for all of our parents, it might have been a good idea but we didn't want to hear it."

Rice said she thinks Howard University president H. Patrick Swygert has a genuine goal of bridging the gap between Howard and the surrounding community. She said she believes the abandoned houses could be turned into housing for students, faculty and staff.

Another District resident and

Howard employee Maybelle Taylor Bennett said she can address Rice's concerns and those of other people who reside in the Metro area.

Bennett is one of two community relations and planning assistants for Howard University. Both Bennett and Jacob Ortiz have the task of assessing, planning and implementing outreach programs to benefit community residents.

Bennett said she was hired in 1991 because she recognizes first hand the friction between Howard and the community. She says that under President Swygert, she is ready for the challenge of reconnecting the two entities.

"I think from our inception there was a great deal expected from us," she said. "We work with a major budget and the idea is, 'You all are Black people and your mission should be to improve the quality of life of the black community.'"

Bennett said she doesn't feel the expectations placed on Howard are too grand. She said the community has concerns that need immediate attention.

"Whenever you come out of the subway in areas like UDC, and George Washington University, there is a special kind of landscape to let you know that you that you are in a special place and we want to do that for the Shaw-Howard area," she said.

It was hoped that the addition of the Shaw-Howard metro station would attract businesses to Georgia Avenue, creating an environment similar to that on U Street. This wish has not been realized, which is one of the reasons Howard plans to make community development a top priority.

"We have been etching partnerships with MANNA, a non-profit housing developer and the Peoples Involvement Corporation," who is building a health facility directly across from the Shaw-Howard Metro station, Bennett said. "We call this collaboration the Georgia Avenue Community Renaissance Initiative."

Together, they plan to revitalize some of the abandoned properties owned by Howard, to build new properties and conduct facade treatment to the Georgia Avenue Business Districts near the school.

"This is going to require a lot of money, and a lot of time," said George Rothman, president of MANNA Inc. "It is possible and we are going to make it work."

Community development is not the only method of connecting with the community that Howard plans to employ.

"We have a lot of things happening that the people right next door to us might not know about," Bennett said.

Bennett acknowledged Howard needs to do a better job at making the community aware of the programs that it offers. She has plans of creating a catalog of activities, which has not been done since 1986. She said she hopes to incorporate the more than 150 outreach programs her office provides, combined with the programs being conducted by the various schools, colleges and campus organizations.

She cited the Each One Teach One program established by Desmond Dunham as an example of how students are also getting involved in the community. Each One Teach One is a program that Dunham designed to give support to the students at Gage Eckington Elementary school.

The program is open to all students, but the 5th and 6th grade students have the option of learning about life skills such as good hygiene, etiquette and manners through the Boys to Men and Best Friends components of the program.

Supported by HUSA, the program has blossomed from 25 volunteers to 165. Carla Hattley, a parent of two children at Eckington, said the program has had a great effect on the students there. Hattley was one of nearly 40 people in attendance at the Each One Teach One Black History Month Essay Contest award banquet, held last Friday in the Blackburn Center.

Second grader Davetta Ebb, a participant in the Each One Teach One program, has Howard to thank for her dreams.

"I want to go to Howard, so I can continue to help people and make \$1,000 to buy a big house and pay my rent."



Photos by Hassan Kinley

Howard owns dilapidated buildings on the 400 block of Oakdale.

PULSE!

Howard's theater arts department 'Jams' with Broadway production

By **Zerline A. Hughes**
Hilltop Staff Writer

Rehearsal begins at 6 p.m., so the cast is told to be there by 5:30.

It somehow balances out.

The fine arts dance room slowly fills as multiplying voices bounce off the mirrored walls. Everyone is prepared for yet another tedious and tiresome rehearsal until the departure of the last shuttle bus or later.

Howard University's College of Fine Arts prepares to put on its last production as the nation's only fine arts college at a Historically Black University.

Sure to make an everlasting impression, they are performing an exclusive rendition of the Broadway hit "Jelly's Last Jam". The play began Tuesday and will run until March 22.

"People, let's go. We're running late," demands Mike Malone, production director, choreographer and College of Fine Arts musical theater professor. Munching on take-out and quenching thirsts with vending-machine sodas, the "Jelly's Last Jam" cast swallows mouthfuls before the evening's never-ending rehearsal of acts one and two is called to action. Upon Malone's

blow of a petrifying whistle, cast members are signaled to take their places.

Executing what is said to be a

about the mid-twenties jazz artist Ferdinand "Jelly Roll" Morton. Morton, often introducing himself as the one who invented jazz, is

The production delves into Morton's life in a retrospective pattern featuring song and dance.

Senior musical theater major Eric

would like to showcase the talents that I've developed since all my years at Howard."

Roberson's knowledge of music

Jelly Roll Morton."

Standing around with hands on hips and folded arms as the third hour approaches, cast members' patience does not seem to get thin. The choreography and music calls for an enthusiastic, upbeat atmosphere that stems from a very positive environment.

Assistant music and choral director Daryl L.A. Hunt explains that music is an integral part of the production. Also identifying with the main character of the play, Hunt explains "though Jelly and I come from different walks of life, musically we share similarities. I try to add a more modern flair to the songs that I play to throw a little bit of me in the music."

Rest assured, the cast will undoubtedly put out an energetically stimulating production. Incorporating song, dance, acting -- sheer all-around talent, the cast has worked day and night to bring this special production to Howard's students and the community.

"This is a huge piece. A lot of work is involved and the cast has worked hard. We'd like Howard's support. They would be proud to see their fellow students doing such a good job," Malone said.



Eric Robeson (center), plays legendary artist Jelly Roll Morton in "Jelly's Last Jam".

Photo by Jason Miccolo Johnson

phenomenal production, a proud Malone explains, "We decided to do Jelly's because it is such a dynamic musical. When we found out that the national tour had ended, we knew it was going to be available."

"Jelly's Last Jam" is a production

remembered today as an innovative pianist, composer, arranger and vocalist who left his mark on the history of music.

From Louisiana with a Creole background, Morton attempted to cover his roots by escaping to cities such as Chicago and New York.

Roberson plays the role of Morton.

Having performed in seven other Howard productions, Roberson has also been featured in productions at the Kennedy and Lincoln centers. As this play will mark his last Howard performance, Roberson said, "as a graduating senior, I

enables him to channel the character and persona of Morton.

"Jelly was an innovator in the early works of jazz. Being in the arts, I feel bonded in that form and can somehow identify with him," he said. "It's a well developed part, and it's an honor to play the role of

Former HU students groove you into 'Weekend'

By **Tanyika N. Jackson**
Hilltop Staff Writer

Make sure you're not in your dorm room when you listen to "Weekend." Whether it's the end of the week or not, you may want to hop in a car with your crew and throw the sunroof back, or claim a spot on the yard and watch the sights or just dance.

This first release from High Rotation Records' recording artists Da Whole 9 delivers beats and vocals that will make you want to do anything but be confined.

The group includes Break-a-Don (Don DeCastro) from St. Thomas, who is the producer, musician and song arranger; Da' Mack (Mack Jones), a South Carolina native raised in the District, owning the duties of vocalist, head lyricist, writer and composer; and D.J. K-New (Kenneth Newsome), a Baltimore native, acting as the producer, song writer and deejay who goes by the name of the "beat master remix king."

Their soon-to-be-released single "Weekend" puts you in the

"throw your books in the corner, don't worry about them until Sunday, go get your groove on," type of vibe. But their complete CD,

mixture of everything. It's just everything that you can dance to, groove to, listen to," D.J. K-New said.

sound." Although the album isn't completed yet, featured artists will bring their unique flavor of vocals, hip hop, and reggae to the

time. If we throw you into the cold water -- hit you with that funk all at one time, you just may go into cardiac arrest," he said.

Like many popular groups of today such as Shai and Pure Soul, this trio was brought together under the roof of Howard University. In fact, Break-a-Don worked on projects with fellow alumni Doodle Bug of Digable Planets and Sean "Puffy" Combs of Bad Boy Entertainment.

Jalani Horton of High Rotation Records said, "One of the reasons we were really aggressive in trying to sign these guys was that we saw something that could move the crowd, be fun, but the message wasn't degrading." This, Horton said, is what his record company is trying to represent.

Da Whole 9 and their record company have a family bond, which is an uncommon occurrence in this business, considering that none share any kinship. They plan on maintaining this bond and bringing more people into the family, K-New said. Their record company believes that their job is to nurture you. "It's a family, not just a business," he said.

Da' Mack said that a trusting business relationship is important because "people in the music industry know that there are sharks in the water and they are dressed like goldfish."

Horton said they are open to new talent, but warned that they are "geared towards people who are serious towards the business side of the industry, because artists are a dime a dozen. We want people who want to be in it for the long haul." He added that he prefers to talk to, rather than audition, people to see where their heads are at.

On the hip-hop tip, Da' Mack revealed that some artists he admires include Outkast, Goodie Mob, and Scarface. "These are guys that are coming at ya' with some deep messages, not just throwing together words that sound alike," he said. Being a producer himself, K-New admires fellow producers such as Organized Noise, The Rza, and Track Masters.

Da Whole 9 will be introduced to the world as they set out on a promotional tour of HBCU's, beginning with Howard University.



Howard alumni Don DeCastro(left), K-New(center), and Da Mack (right) are better known as Da Whole 9

Photo by Hassan Kniley

scheduled for release sometime this summer, will not be bound to just one description.

"Our music is anything. We really can't put a label on it. It's a

One of the more important things that Break-a-Don wants to continue is "the renaissance of live musicians and live instruments coming back into the

compilation.

"This song isn't even the funkier," Da' Mack said in reference to the first single. "It's just like taking one step into water at a

Stephanie Mills, Shirley Caesar, Desiree Coleman-Jackson take the District by storm with 'Born to Sing'

By **Craig Brummer**
Hilltop Staff Writer

All those in the audience who thought they could sing before the curtains went up had to seriously evaluate their own talent by the end of the production. But what could one expect when the headliners for the musical Born to Sing are Shirley Caesar and Stephanie Mills, who truly were born to sing in such places as the Warner theater. Include Asia Dosreis and Desiree Coleman-Jackson, two young women who have made names for themselves in the entertainment industry, and the result is one of the best stage productions of the year.

In this era, it is difficult for young women to find positive role models in musical productions. This gospel musical attempts to put an end to this trend. But to label the production as simply a "gospel musical" is too limiting -- the performance includes gospel, jazz, and R&B music. Additionally, this musical has what many contemporary musicals lack, a plot that addresses concerns and issues within the family setting.

Mills plays Doris Winter, a megagospel star who holds auditions for

a protégé for her choir. She considers Samantha Summers (Coleman-Jackson), a street-kid who shows an incredible potential for singing. But Mama Winter (Caesar) warns her daughter not to choose Summers, but to choose her own daughter (Dosreis). Doris chooses Summers instead, but the new addition to her choir was not quite what she expected. This play shows the importance of keeping family the number-one priority, no matter what outside forces encourage.

Born to Sing exposes several facets of human nature. It explores issues such as a child's jealousy of her mother, adolescence rivalry and working mothers. However, each issue is handled with class and much credit must be given to the writer and director.

Perhaps what makes this production truly unique was the fact that the four leading ladies have different styles in singing.

Shirley Caesar has a strong voice. She makes the audience feel her emotions as soon as she hits the stage. She does not have the range that many might expect, but she uses what she has to her best ability. Her gospel songs feature this

unique blend of power and emotion and make her one of the best in the business.

Mills is an artist. She practices voice pitch control in Born to Sing. Her range is spectacular and there is definitely an emotional presence in her voice, but her control is what few ever achieve. There is no one in the industry who could sing her song "If I Could" better.

Coleman-Jackson also has control and power, but what sets her apart from the rest of the talented women is her five-octave range.

Perhaps most surprising was the performance of Dosreis. She must have saved her strength for Act Two because she demonstrated that she belonged on the stage in the most emotional song (and the most inspirational), "Face to Face." This song enabled all the actresses to sing, but Dosreis definitely showed the audience that she had great talent.

This production is filled with some of the best gospel music to be found anywhere. But people of all religions will enjoy it because it has something to offer to all people. Drama, comedy, music -- it's all there.

Meow!!!



You don't have to visit the Winter Garden Theater on Broadway in order to enjoy the legendary stage play Cats. The touring company is just as great and spectacular at its present location -- the district's National Theater. Cats will run until March 30. Tickets can be purchased by phone by calling Telecharge toll free at (800) 477-7400, or in person at the National Theater box office, 1321 Pennsylvania Ave. North, NW. Tickets prices range from \$45 to \$65. Performances take place Tuesday through Saturday evenings at 8:00 p.m.

Grade: A+ -- A must see for all ages!

WEEKENDER

WEEKENDER Spotlight: The 9:30 Club

By Alona Ballard
Hilltop Staff Writer

There's only one club in D.C. where you can admire fine artwork, dine on vegetarian snacks then lounge by the espresso bar.

It's the 9:30 Club and it is within walking distance from Howard's campus.

The 9:30 Club opened its doors at 815 V St. on Jan. 5, 1996. The building used to house a club called The Wust.

Since its inception, the 9:30 Club has been known as the spot for new, undiscovered talent in the District.

The club admits all ages, but the bars are strict about underage drinking.

"I've seen 5-year-olds, 10-year-olds in here," said Liz Drogula, the club's publicist. "There are four bars in total, two on the sides of the concert hall, the espresso bar, a V.I.P. bar and the backbar, a downstairs bar which has its own separate entrance."

The club also features a snack bar with a menu that rivals a restaurant. The snack bar,

called Food Food, has six vegetarian dishes including X Chili with Brown Rice and five wrap dishes including Serape, a Mexican wrap with refried beans and salsa and Pan Bagna, an Italian wrap with provolone cheese, tomatoes, onion and romaine lettuce in a baguette. Meat eaters are not overlooked -- Food Food also serves turkey or roast beef wrapped in a pita.

The club also has a small area called the planet lounge where the ceiling is decorated with glow-in-the-dark stars that resemble the layout of the universe. The walls surrounding the backbar are covered with art that is for sale. The art in the exhibit, "Hate Mail and Love Letters," was inspired by songs such as Ella Fitzgerald's "What Is This Thing Called Love." A soundtrack featuring the inspirational songs is available.

The 9:30 Club caters to a very diverse clientele. All ages and races flock to the club. Jerqui Compton, a 16-year-old student at Hayfield Secondary School in Alexandria, Va.,



The 9:30 Club opened its doors on Jan 5, 1996 and is located at 815 V St. NW.

Photo by Hassan Kinley

came to see the band Local H with his uncle Tony Swift, a sales manager. Swift goes to the 9:30 club to experience the local flavor and to enjoy the music.

"We can accommodate any kind of crowd," Drogula said. Some of the artists featured at The 9:30 Club include Tony Bennett, Al Green, Johnny

Cash and Counting Crows. Smashing Pumpkins began their latest tour there. According to Drogula, Cypress Hill, 311, and The Pharcyde have also had a popular performance there.

"The energy was phenomenal," she said.

One of Drogula's most memorable moments at the

club occurred when there were two different types of shows in one night. Suzanne Vega, who attracts a more conservative, older crowd held a concert before the band Genitorturers went on stage. The Genitorturers have a number of fans who are fond of leather, whips, chains and body piercing. "The one moment the

two crowds came together, it was like culture shock," Drogula said.

Theo Onley, 26, was a regular at the 9:30 Club before it was moved to its present location. "I've been coming here since I was 14," Onley said.

Onley, a courier by day, likes the bands Fishbone and Israel Vibration.

He eventually applied for a job at the club and has been a bouncer for three years.

Tommy, a 24-year-old bartender, also enjoys his job. "Every now and then I get to see a band I like."

Tonight the 9:30 Club presents Shawn Colvin with Freddy Johnstone and Patti Griffin. On March 9, The Presidents of the United States of America and Crumbox will perform.

The 9:30 Club, which can be rented for private parties and holds a maximum capacity of 1,200 people, is open until 2:45 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and until 1:45 a.m. Sunday through Thursday. One thing that the club prides itself upon is the sound system. "The sound here is phenomenal," Drogula said, "we have the best sound system."

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PERSPECTIVES

Theo Spencer

Investing in athletics could pay academic dividends

March 1997 marks yet another year Howard will not qualify for post-season play. The Howard men's basketball team breaks every stereotype about Blacks being good basketball players. Furthermore, the Bison's coach, Mike McLeese, has a win to loss differential that would be an impressive score after a couple rounds of golf. What is the problem with the basketball team?

First, Mike McLeese is really not to blame for all of the shortcomings of the basketball team. McLeese came to Howard after a few years of coaching a very good high school basketball team. McLeese undertook a big responsibility by accepting the job at Howard. He was hired to coach the men's basketball team and also to recruit talented players from the metropolitan area.

Unfortunately, talented players from the metro area either want to go to Georgetown University or the University of Maryland, College Park. Many times, the best players from this area want to take their talent to other parts of the country. Consequently, it is very hard to try and build a respectable team comprised mainly of area talent.

People underestimate the challenges that face a head basketball coach at the college level. As a high school coach, McLeese did not have to worry about recruiting players. High school coaches make their living in the classroom; they don't have to worry about putting food on the table based on their ability to coach.

Secondly, Howard's conference, the Mid Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC), is one of the weakest conferences in the nation. Every year, only one team from the MEAC makes it to the NCAA playoffs. Every year, that MEAC representative automatically becomes somebody's sacrificial lamb. The MEAC is too weak to garner television coverage. If there is any hope of having a good basketball team, Howard has to be on national television five or six times a season. The entire MEAC does not get national coverage five or

six times a season.

College basketball is a multimillion dollar business. Unfortunately, the MEAC may never earn money comparable to other conferences its size. A trip to the NCAA Division I playoffs is worth \$250,000 to the conference of that college. A trip to the NCAA championship game is worth more than \$4 million. The University of Michigan earned the Big Ten Conference more than \$8 million in a two-year span from two championship game appearances. Endorsements and selling their rights to television earned Michigan more money and also served as free advertisement for the school.

Most of the schools in the Big Ten would not have survived if it were not for athletics. Schools like Ohio State and Penn State turned to athletics and created football teams because of state cuts in funding. These schools used money raised from football games to expand their campuses.

Howard University is not willing to make a commitment to maintaining a winning men's basketball program. Most of the people in administration do not care about winning — the main concern at Howard is education. Unfortunately, the commitment this school needs to make has nothing to do with education. The commitment this school should make is about investing money into a sports program with hopes of getting more money out of the sports program.

The biggest reason why Howard has a losing basketball team is because no one thinks that basketball can make money. Predominantly White colleges understand that athletics make money. These schools earn money by accepting good athletes rather than good students. The money White schools raise from athletics funds medical research at their hospitals. This money pays for every new facility on their campus. Their teams bring alumni support to the university. Will Howard ever understand what it is missing by not having a good basketball team?

The writer is a chemistry major.



Bishop Chui

Rebirth of a Nation

Some say that niggaz perpetuate. ... I say that niggaz are perpetuated ... in a society that's fabricated ...

My parents used to make me watch "Fat Albert" every Saturday morning. It was an awful chore when I was 5 years old. I hated "Fat Albert," but my parents loved it. I would have rather been watching my favorite super hero cartoon, which happened to be on another station at the same time.

My show had only one Black character, who seemed to be reserved for shows that aired during February (probably because of Black History Month). But who cared, my heroes were super heroes with superpowers, state-of-the-art headquarters and super vehicles.

"Fat Albert" was just some fat Black kid who lived in the ghetto and played in the junkyard. My parents wanted me to watch this kids' show 'cause he was Black. I remember thinking: a cartoon's a cartoon, what's the difference?

Almost 10 years later, Radio Rahim in Spike Lee's film "Do the Right Thing" was violently choked to death by the nightstick of an angry White police officer right before my eyes. Just like most of the other Black men on screen he didn't stand a chance.

Until recently it was the same everywhere. As sure as the fleeing white girl in a horror flick is bound to trip and fall, the first person in any movie to be killed is the Black guy. Black men were forever cast as pimps, gays, addicts, jigaboos, freaks and criminals of every

nature.

As if that wasn't enough, strong Black male characters always catch it worst. From Kunta Kinte to Marcellus Wallace ("Pulp Fiction"), Black male characters have all fallen to Hollywood's reputation of being victims.

It's as though being a strong Black man in a White man's world is out of the question. Whites brutalize Blacks on screen, but Blacks hardly ever get to see their own people defend themselves on screen, and you might as well forget about us being the aggressors.

No one ever got to see Marcellus Wallace get "medieval" on that White guy's ass. Even movies like "Sankofa" fail to show Black hands against the oppressor; they'd rather us watch shadows portray the actual event.

Maybe the greatest film that we saw in the 20th century was shot from a helicopter. I know it remains one of the most inspirational films of my life — the one where four Black kids snatch a White truck driver (Reginald Denny) out of his cab and bash him with bricks in the middle of an L.A. intersection. Needless to say they stopped traffic.

Another one of the most inspirational films of my life is "Rosewood," although other Blacks and Whites detest it, I think that it was long overdue.

A strong Black man may be White America's greatest fear (it was definitely J. Edgar Hoover's), but weak Blacks seem to have some reason to fear also. My point is made clear when I witness them ally themselves with those who quibble about the film.

"Rosewood's" many faultfinders claim that John Singleton and Gregory Poirer have written in a fictional superhero along with the actual residents of the town and somewhere along the line destroyed the film's integrity, reducing it to that of say — a cartoon.

The implications have angered me and in the same breath questioned my own existence. Since when is a strong black man larger-than-life? Is it so hard for us to believe that black people can be respectable heroes too?

Alex Haley's "Roots" is hailed as an American classic, but its author also strayed from the "known" truth. In addition, most people don't challenge the truly mythological "Columbus" in the movie theaters or in the classrooms.

Quiet as it is kept, the historical aspect of "Rosewood" has not been challenged, not because it's flattering or cinematic, but because it's the truth. The truth has reopened a wound in the fabric of what a lot of Americans thought their country was built on.

For a long time neither blacks nor whites wanted to look in the mirror for fear that their images would be inconceivably repulsive. "Rosewood" depicts a palatable image of blacks and a hideous image of whites.

In the beginning of movie history, "Birth of a Nation" did the exact opposite. Today a filmmaker is able to show the true story, but the truth has no effect if no one is willing to look.

The writer is a sophomore majoring in psychology

The balance of Power



Ta-Nehisi Coates

Howard at the Crossroads

Whenever I travel to different places and tell people that I am a student at Howard, I feel a certain pride. Without failure the faces of my questioners light up when I tell them that I'm following in the giant steps of Charles Drew, Alain Locke, or more specifically Rayford Logan.

It is a special thing, this Howard legacy. But recent events have led me to wonder whether my kids will have that same gleam in their eyes when they say they attend Howard. In fact, I wonder whether I would even send my kids to Howard.

For the last four years, Howard has been under assault from all angles. It was only 3 years ago that Howard was embroiled in controversy. Media critics derided Howard as a hive for anti-semitism. While the Republicans who captured Congress were poised to make an example of Howard's \$200 million budget, rumors circulated that Howard would be closing and students walked campus knowing that it could be their last days.

A few years later, Howard appears to be safe again. President Swygert has convinced Congress to renew Howard's endowment. The media vultures who once swirled over Howard's limping mass have even been converted. Both The Washington Post and New York Times have run fluff profiles of President Swygert. The storm it seems has passed.

But all is not well in Meccaland. While Congress may have been appeased, and newspapers wooed, Howard faces much deeper problems.

The most troubling of these is one that has traditionally plagued and undermined Black institutions — economic independence. Howard is technically a private institution, but it gets approximately 40 percent of its budget from the federal government, which essentially means that at any point the federal government can either make Howard disappear from the collegiate map or turn it into a community college.

To some extent President Swygert has addressed these concerns in his Strategic Framework. According to the Framework, Howard will cut the

number of colleges and attempt to solicit more private funds. Yet, whether these initiatives will get Howard off of federal assistance or if that's even a goal, remains shrouded in the double-talk and off-the-record remarks of University officials.

According to the Oct. 11 issue of *The Hilltop*, Swygert said the restructuring will likely cost more than it will save. If this is the case, then the merger of the colleges at Howard seem that much more mysterious. If these actions aren't going to save any money then what is the reasoning behind it?

As for Howard soliciting private funds, this will help decrease the amount of government money that Howard uses, but at what cost? Essentially, you still have a Black institution that will most likely be bankrolled by White philanthropists. What happens if Khalid Muhammad comes to this campus and says something that offends Howard's philanthropists? Will Howard's funding be yanked again?

The administration seems to have resolved this issue by embroiling the Campus mosque in an ocean of paperwork and technicalities to keep controversial speakers off the campus. The fact that Muhammad can speak at White schools, but will probably never speak at Howard again is ludicrous.

The problem though isn't necessarily with funding, but with Black leadership (something that Howard is a part of). Economic independence has never been of much importance to integrationist groups like the NAACP and The Urban League (are they even around anymore?). Consequently, whenever these organizations do something that its supporters don't like, then they end up in serious trouble.

When Ben Chavis was head of the NAACP and dared to attempt to forge a collective leadership from traditionalists and militants, the NAACP found itself in serious economic trouble.

Howard is no different. This University has been in economic trouble for years. Yet, it was not until Khalid Muhammad's visit and the untimely arrival of the Republican Congress that Howard found itself in danger of closing.

Has Howard learned anything from its congressional fiasco? More importantly has the Black community learned anything from financial dependency on White institutions?

The problem is not a simple one. Indeed there are few Black philanthropic institutions that could rival their White counterparts. It is in fact a problem that may exceed Howard's grasp. The philosophy in the Black community has never been one of economic independence. But Howard as an educational institution is in a prime position to change this. If it doesn't, in another few short years Howard may find itself once again teetering on the brink of extinction.

The writer is the editorial editor of *The Hilltop*.

RELIGIOUS EMPHASIS WEEK
"The Spiritual and Ethical Dimensions of Leadership"
Schedule of Selected Events
March 9 - 16, 1997

Sunday, March 9 11:00 -a.m.	University Chapel Service Dr. Cornel West, Professor of Religion and African-American Studies, Harvard University	Rankin Chapel
Monday, March 10 8:00 -8:30 a.m.	Morning Prayers Mrs. Michelle Wright, Assistant Vice President Human Resource Management	Rankin Chapel
12:00 - 12:20 p.m	Noonday Prayer	Rankin Chapel
7:00 p.m.	"Tapping The Power Within" Iyanla Vanzant, Esq. Author and Spiritual Counselor	Cramton Auditorium
Tuesday, March 11 8:00-8:30 a.m.	Morning Prayers Mr. Bernard Moon, Director Central Scheduling and Information	Rankin Chapel
12:00 - 12:20 p.m	Noonday Prayer	Rankin Chapel
12:30 - 2:00	Forum on Ethics In Politics Discussion Leaders: Dr. Alvin Thornton, Chair, Political Science Dr. Lorenzo Morris, Associate Professor of Political Science	Gallery Lounge
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Play: "I Am The Dream" with Al Eaton Remarks: Mrs. Rosa Parks Mother of the Civil Rights Movement Donation:\$15.00 Adults; \$10:00 Students/Seniors Reception and Booking Signing	Blackburn Center
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.	"Rapping, Religion and Relationships," Session 4, "Relationship with Self" Dr. Alice McNair, Executive Director Pastoral Ministries Institute, Reston, VA United Ministries at Howard University Newman Foundation	Rankin Chapel
7:00 p.m.	Howard University Student Association Lecturer "Transforming Leadership with African Spirituality" Dr. Na'im Akbar, Professor of Psychology Florida State University	Cramton Auditorium
Wednesday, March 12 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.	Morning Prayers Artis G. Hampshire-Cowan, Vice President for Human Resource Management and Secretary of the University and Board of Trustees	Rankin Chapel
12:00 -1:00 p.m.	University-Wide Chapel Service Dr. H. Beecher Hicks, Pastor Metropolitan Baptist Church	Rankin Chapel
4:00 - 5:30 p.m.	"The Impact of Religion on World Politics" Barbara Reynolds, Columnist and Ordained Minister Dr. Soheil Bushrel, International Development and Conflict Management, University of Maryland The Rev. Dr. J. Carleton Hayden Al Hajj Johari Abdul Malik Ralph J. Bunche International Center, Howard University	Ralph J. Bunche International Center
7:00 p.m.	Student Led Worship Service, Chapel Assistants Preacher: Rev. Dr. Grainger Browning, Pastor, Ebenezer A.M.E. Church Fort Washington, Maryland	Rankin Chapel
Thursday, March 13 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.	Morning Prayers Dr. Joseph Taylor, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology, Howard University School of Divinity	Rankin Chapel
12:00 - 12:20 p.m	Noonday Prayer	Rankin Chapel
12:30-2:30 p.m.	"Sons and Daughters of Abraham: A Jewish, Christian, Muslim and Baha'i Forum for Discussion" Rabbi Gerald Serrata, Director, Hillel Foundation George Washington University Al Hajj Johari Abdul-Malik, Muslim Chaplain Mr. Dean Mohr, Aviation Safety Expert	Carnegie Interfaith Worship Center
3:00-5:30 p.m.	"Beyond The Talk - A Call To Prayer and Action: A Faithful Response to Drugs, Violence, Poverty and Other Issues Confronting Our Communities" Guest: Spiritual and Political Leaders Rev. Lillian C. Smith, Chaplain, Wesley Foundation	Rankin Chapel
Friday, March 14 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.	Morning Prayers Dr. Gene Gary-Williams, Dean College of Allied Health Sciences	Rankin Chapel
12:00 p.m.	Hands Across The Campus Prayers for the Howard Community	Campus Yard
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.	"Opening Hearts to God: Baha'i, Muslim, and Hindu Reflections on Prayer and Meditations" Dr. Fulton Caldwell (Baha'i); Al Hajj Johari Abdul Malik (Muslim); Mr. Nanik Lahori (Hindu)	Carnegie Interfaith Worship Center
7:00 p.m.	Presidential Lecture Dr. Stephen Carter, Professor of Law, Yale University Reception: Browsing Room, Founders Library Sponsor: Office of the University Center Director	Rankin Chapel
9:30 - 1:30 am	"Gospel Jam: A Spiritual Club Experience" Music, Poetry, Rap, Drama, Step and Dance Sponsored by: Office of the Dean of the Chapel Tom Skinner Associates - Noon Day Prayer	The Punch Out Blackburn
Sunday, March 16 11:00 a.m.	University Chapel Service Bishop John Bryant 10th Episcopal District, A.M.E. Church Dallas, Texas	Rankin Chapel

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SPORTS

ESPN town meeting tackles race relations

By **Rochell Bishop**
Hilltop staff writer

Do Blacks have a better chance of becoming athletes than becoming doctors or lawyers? Are most Blacks in school mainly to play sports? Are most potential Black coaches too young and inexperienced for coaching jobs? Several sports dignitaries attempted to answer these and other questions at last Friday's ESPN's Town Meeting, held in Cramton Auditorium.

The meeting, titled "Sports in Black and White" and moderated by ABC "Nightline" anchor Ted Koppel, was held to examine how race relations in sports have changed since Jackie Robinson broke the Major League Baseball

color barrier 50 years ago.

Koppel invited several sports luminaries, including ESPN and NBC baseball analyst Joe Morgan; Washington Bullets star Chris Webber, former Cleveland Browns running back Jim Brown; Adidas USA sports director Sonny Vacarro; lawyer and baseball representative Clifford Alexander; and former University of Alabama head coach Gene Stallings, to take part in the panel discussion and answer questions from the audience.

Many of the questions focused on the lack of minority representation in management positions.

In a poll conducted by ABC News "Nightline," two-thirds of African Americans say that Blacks aren't promoted to management positions

because most team owners are racially biased against Blacks when it comes to coaching. Six in 10 Whites disagreed with this statement.

Alexander said sports officials should be pressured to make changes in the management.

Hall of Famer Jim Brown agreed, but added that sports stars should come together to make a change. If united, Brown said, Blacks can hire Black managers, lawyers and agents who can demand change. "Where is our collective power being used?" Brown asked.

Joe Morgan, a former Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame second baseman, said he was offered a general manager position, but did not accept.

"It's really not about Joe Morgan,

it's about all of us," Morgan said, adding that he doesn't understand why he was the only Black offered such a prestigious position when there are other African Americans qualified for the job.

Webber disagreed with the notion that young African-American high school students should refuse NBA contracts and stay in school. He argued that White gymnasts and tennis players start their athletic careers at an early age and don't attend high school, yet people don't want young African Americans to make the transition from high school to the NBA.

But in a poll, six out of 10 people of both races disagreed that most blacks are in school mainly to play sports and not to learn.

"You need education to survive

in this society if you're not a professional athlete," Morgan said, adding that after Robinson broke racial barriers in sports, he focused on education.

"Don't make a case of it when a few have the opportunity to make some money," Webber said. "I will leave school, get what I want and then go back to school."

He added that God blessed him through athletics and that he is using his athleticism as a vehicle to accomplish more.

Vacarro brought up the issue of stipends for college players, which started an argument between Webber and Stallings.

"Why can't schools give them [players] money to start up their lives after school?" Vacarro

asked, to which Stallings responded, "We give them summer jobs."

"Their job is basketball," Webber countered.

"You are dead wrong. You haven't been on my side. You come into the ghetto only to recruit me."

Although time was extended for the program, which was televised live on ESPN, many issues were left uncovered.

When asked why there was no female representation on the panel, Koppel responded, "The program is but so long, and there is just about so much we can cover. ... We are focusing on the world of professional sports as it is, not as it should be."

Howard freshman guard Xavier Singletary aims for Rookie of the Year

By **Kisha Riggins**
Hilltop Staff Writer

The shot clock was winding down, 12 minutes were left in the game, the stands were full, and the crowd in Burr Gymnasium was cheering. It was the Howard basketball game against North Carolina A&T, and Howard was leading by five points, but the Aggies were one of the top teams in the conference, and guard/forward Xavier Singletary knew that the Aggies weren't going to back down.

He stood at the edge of the three-point line. Briefly, Singletary thought about passing the ball to his roommate and teammate Jermaine Holliway in the post, but two defenders had Holliway sandwiched. Singletary took a couple of micro steps, then noticed that his defender wasn't playing him closely. In the blink of an eye, Singletary backed up and shot a three-pointer, hitting nothing but net.

The week of the A&T game was a good week for Singletary, or "Boo" as he is known to family and friends.

Five hours earlier, Singletary found out that he had just been selected the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Rookie of the Year. Two days later, he discovered that he had been named to the second team, all-MEAC.

"Man, that boy can ball," junior Cory Fletcher mused aloud. "I wonder why he came here."

The answer is not a complex one.

"I came to Howard because the program was 'down,'" Singletary said. "I really liked Coach Mac [men's basketball coach McLeese]. He was a real big influence on coming here. I already knew him as a person, and I felt that I could get along with him. That's probably the biggest reason I came here. That, and the opportunity to play and play a lot and really help this team."

Singletary has fulfilled all of McLeese's expectations.

"When recruiting Boo, I knew he was a heck of a talent," McLeese said. "I told him that if he came to play for us, he'd be the Rookie of the Year. He is one of the cornerstones of the program."

"Boo doesn't take all the hype to

his head," roommate Holliway said. "He's a laid-back person, but at the same time he's a very friendly person. People might think he's shy or the quietest person in the world. But if you get him behind closed doors, there's nothing quiet about him."

Going into last Monday's play-in game for the MEAC tournament, Singletary led Howard in points and rebounds per game. Although on paper it seems as though Singletary had an easy time playing for Howard, he said that is not the case.

"It was an adjustment playing in high school and now in college," Singletary said. "In high school, people weren't as physical. At the college level, I'm playing against grown men. Now I have to have a mental toughness too, because being a freshman, I have to come out and prove myself every game."

"I had to work on a lot of things when I got here. I had to learn to create my own shot, gaining the confidence and getting strong. The MEAC is a lot harder to play in than I thought it would be."

"He's become a very consistent player," McLeese said. "I think that

his adjustment has been a struggle. Now he's playing against men and he has to get in the weight room and get stronger. I was concerned about starting him as a freshman, because when you do, you don't know how they will react. But he has come in with a quiet confidence and done great."

Coming into the season, Singletary has set many goals -- academically, individually and teamwise.

"Well, the team goals come first: to win the MEAC regular season and to go into the tournament and win that. Individually, I wanted to come in and win Rookie of the Year," Singletary said.

Although the Bison started off winless in their first 10 games, Singletary hasn't doubted his decision to come to Howard.

"I'm glad I came here," Singletary said. "I like the atmosphere -- it just seems exciting. At the games, the crowd gets me going. The adrenaline is flowing and I just love it. When the crowd is in the game, it just makes me feel good. It makes me and the team play harder."

Racism in sports is alive and well

By **Dennis Freeman**
Hilltop Staff Writer

The topic of racism in sports always becomes a heated issue, and last Friday night's discussion at Cramton Auditorium, in front of a nationally televised audience with ABC's Ted Koppel moderating, was no different.

With a selected panel of celebrity guests such as Washington Bullets star Chris Webber, Hall of Fame running back Jim Brown, baseball's Joe Morgan, New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft, and former head coach at Alabama University Gene Stallings participating, the forum was sometimes heated and at other times noninformative.

There were several issues that weren't addressed at all during the forum.

When we look at racism in sports, we must go beyond this male-dominant world and look at the gender aspect as well. For instance, why are there no corporate sponsorships to attract young African-American girls into nontraditional sports such as figure skating, gymnastics, winter skiing or tennis?

Another issue that should have been raised is why do shoe companies only target young Black kids with Black basketball players or football players for promotions? Black kids are not the only ones who play and watch basketball. The advertisers and promoters are somewhat responsible for keeping this particular wedge of racism in sports.

Instead of a creating a universal package that will reach all races at one time (Nike's "Be Like Mike" is

an exception), shoe companies target one particular race with one product, then throw another pitch to another audience. You have Whites promoting tennis, figure skating, golf (before Tiger Woods), and Blacks promoting baseball, football and basketball.

Another issue that should be raised is why Black female athletes are portrayed as strong and powerful, whereas White female athletes are seen as elegant and graceful. Can someone please explain the difference in the elegance and grace of a tennis player who has to have a powerful forehand and strong serve and the grace and elegance of a basketball player moving on the court?

The only difference is the obvious: one is Black and the other is White. Let's face it. Black athletes are seen as bulls; White athletes are seen as the smart ones.

Let's look at another issue: leadership. Why did take so many years after Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier before a Black was put in a leadership position -- when Wayne Emery became the first African-American general manager of any professional sport for the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers?

How can Danny Ainge of the Phoenix Suns, who had a so-so professional basketball career, get a head coaching job while Kareem Abdul-Jabar, the NBA's all-time leading scorer, keeps getting rejected every time he applies for a coaching position?

Racism abounds everywhere in our society, and sports just happens to be one part of our society where we must address and deal with it.

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Harare, Zimbabwe-July 14-August 8
Experience the brilliant blue lakes bounded by wild flowers, high forests, and quaint villages in Zimbabwe this summer! This program will be directed by UC Berkeley professor, Dr. Barbara Christian. Students will participate in two courses on African-American literature in the context of Southern Africa and Zimbabwe and Southern African politics.

Chicano-Studies

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Spend your summer in the beautiful city of Guanaquato! Live with a Mexican family while taking one of two (elementary or intermediate) intensive immersion courses in language and culture. Directed by Dr. Lourdes Parra

East Asian Languages

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For more information, call or write:
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1998 Bison Yearbook Editor-in-Chief

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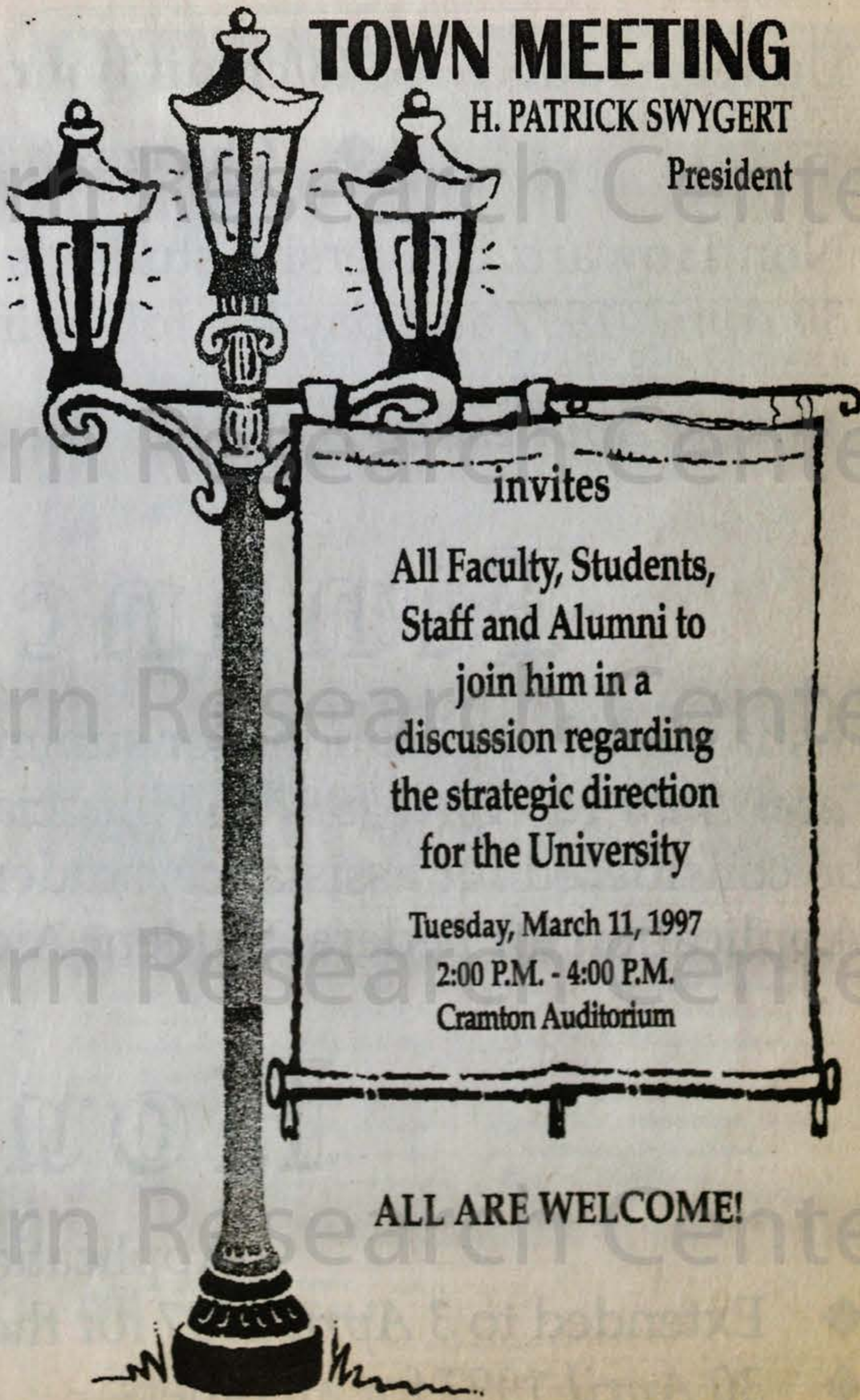
**Applications and pertinent information is available in the Student
Activities Office, Suite 117, Blackburn Center.**

**Application deadline: March 10th
not later than 5:00 PM**

**Interviews are scheduled for March 17th
Sign up for an interview time at submitting completed application
Only eligible candidates will be interviewed**

TOWN MEETING

**H. PATRICK SWYGERT
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invites

**All Faculty, Students,
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join him in a
discussion regarding
the strategic direction
for the University**

**Tuesday, March 11, 1997
2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
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ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT NEWS BRIEF #20

7 MARCH 1997

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Session I Late Registration—16 May

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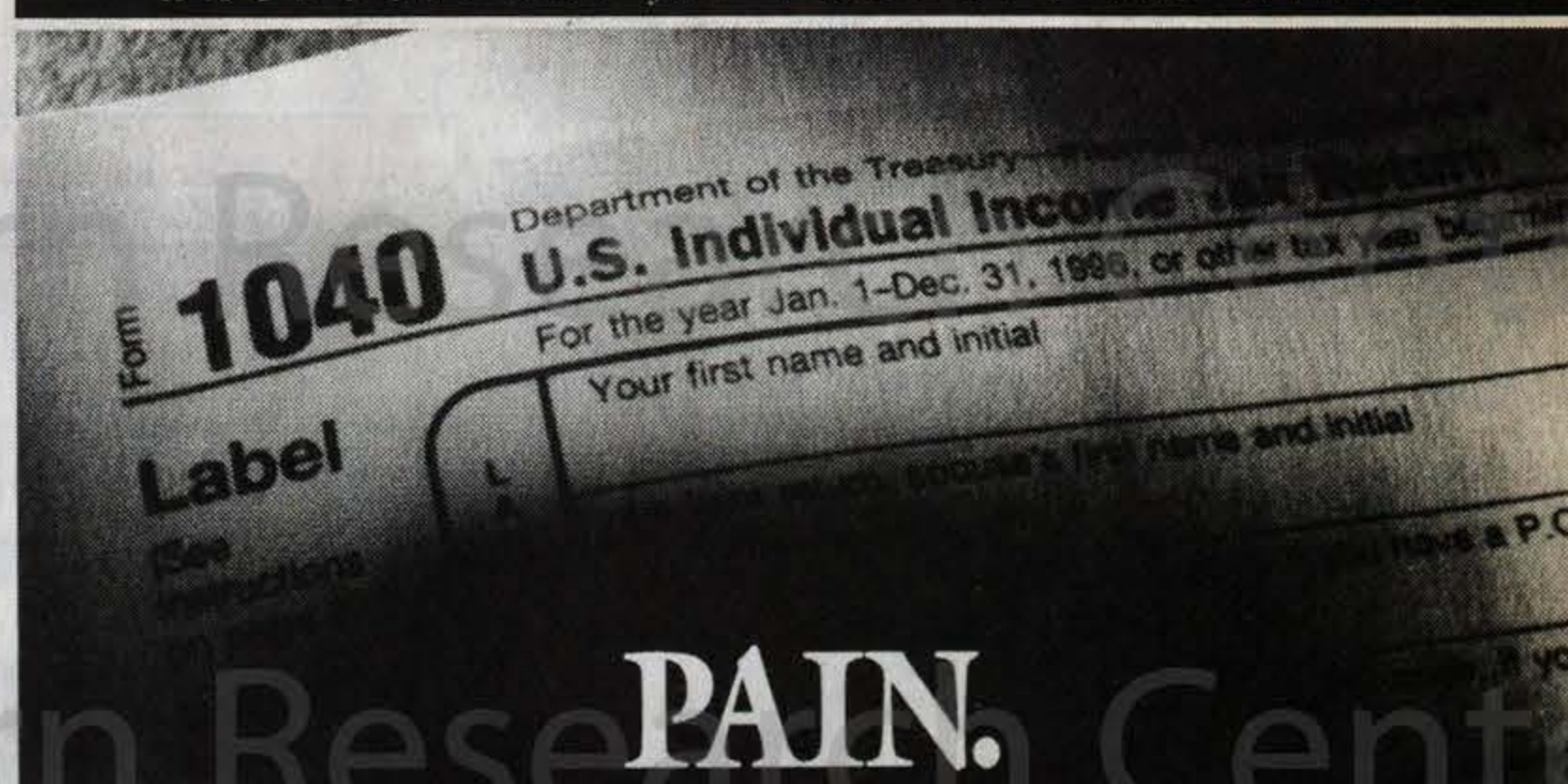
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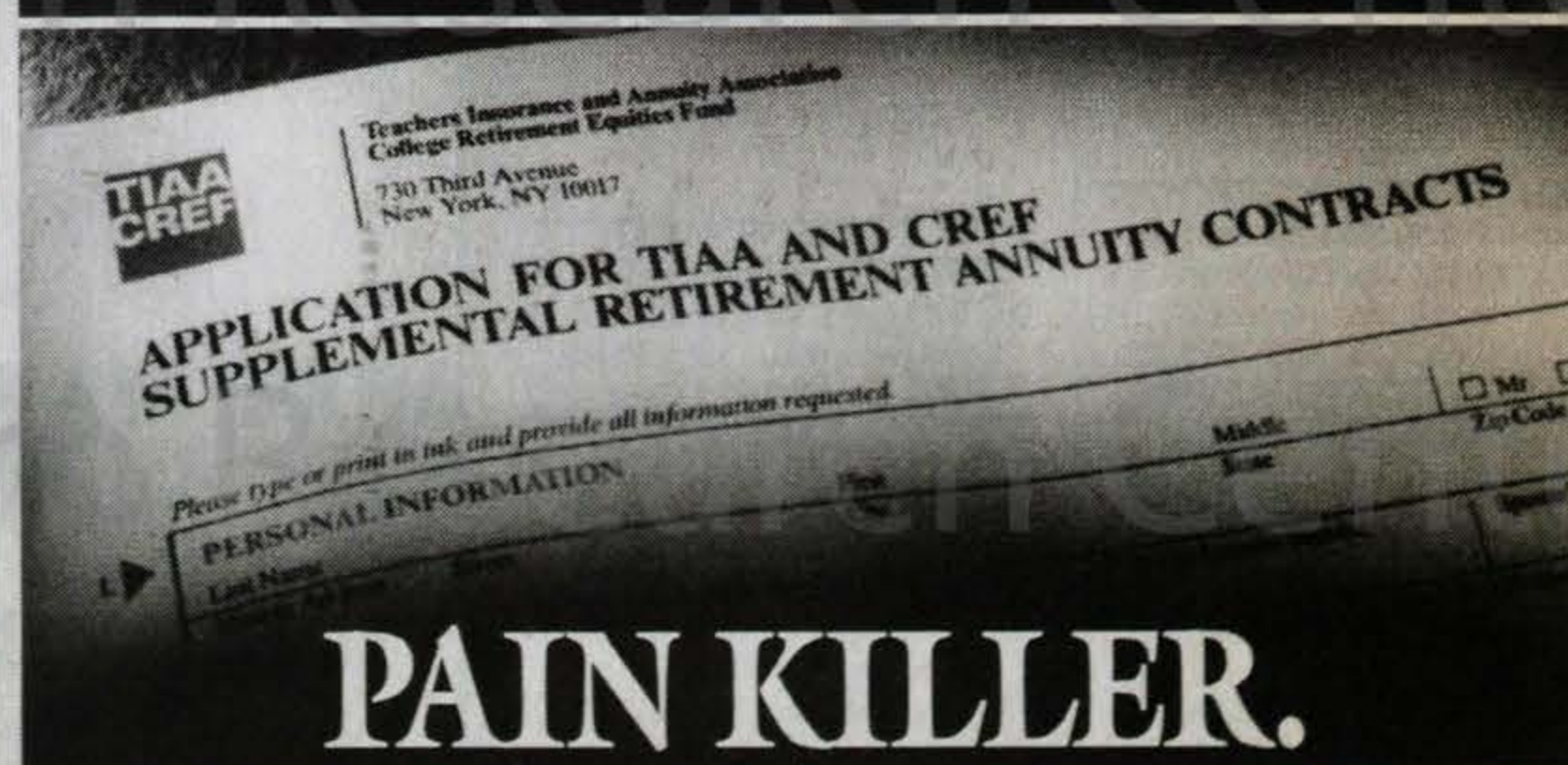
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

As-salaamu Alaikum!! Muslim prayer & sermon every Friday @ 1PM. Islamic studies class Sundays @ 2PM. All are invited! Carnegie Building (near Douglass). For more information: (202) 291-3790

All persons interested in being a Pollworker and Pollwatcher for the General Assembly Elections are invited to attend an Information Session Monday, March 10, 1997 at 6:00pm in the School of Business Rm 218. For more information call the GAEC office at 806-4510/5932

G.O.D.S.C. General Body Meeting Wednesday March 12 at 8:00pm.

Calif. Club Meeting Mon. March 10 7pm Slowe Hall Dues \$10. Upcoming Events: Tomorrow, Bowling Day 2-5pm March 20, 1997, West Cost Party 8-12pm Annex Howard Vacation Day Summer 1997

The National Council of Negro Women invites all members to join in their call to Chapel March 9, 1997

All HUSC Big Brother/Big Sister Mandatory Meeting Tuesday March 11th, in the Undergrad Library from 7pm to 8pm.

Tennessee Club Meeting 7:30pm Monday, March 10th Room B-14 in Douglass Hall "Come if you represent"

Abraham Jones/Cantebury Student Association invites all students and staff to worship, on Sundays at 9:00am Carnegie Hall (Little Chapel). "Intro. To Trinidad" discussion on Trinidad and Tobago and May trip. 5:30-7:30 Friday March 7. Basement of Chapel. For more info. call Michael @ 202-234-0795

Join The College Republicans America's Youth Renewing America Call Jamal at 202-518-1272

Annual Nursing Research Day Theme: A Research Agenda For The 21st Century: Meeting The Health Care Needs Of A Multicultural Society Wednesday, March 19, 1997 For Information: (202) 806-5581 or Dr. Beatrice Kelly (202) 806-7459 **Congratulations to UBIQUITY'S Spring '97 Abecedarians. Your JOURNEY begins NOW...**

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Help Wanted General Volunteers and Pollworkers for the General Assembly Elections. For more information contact the GAEC at 806-4510.

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ΔΣΠ

Happy Birthday Delta Sigma Pi, Iota Rho Chapter

Happy Birthday to Cayce "SKULLY" Cummins much love from Authentic **Congratulations to Monica Triplett on a Successful 5th Annual Woman to Woman Conference**

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THE GET OUT AND VOTE CAMPAIGN

MON., MARCH 10

CANDIDATE MIXER SLOWE HALL 7PM

TUES., MARCH 11

CANDIDATE MIXER BETHUNE ANNEX 7PM

WED., MARCH 12

CANDIDATE MIXER CARVER HALL 7PM

THURS., MARCH 13

SPEAK-OUT W. TOWERS 7PM

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